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WORLD SOCCER

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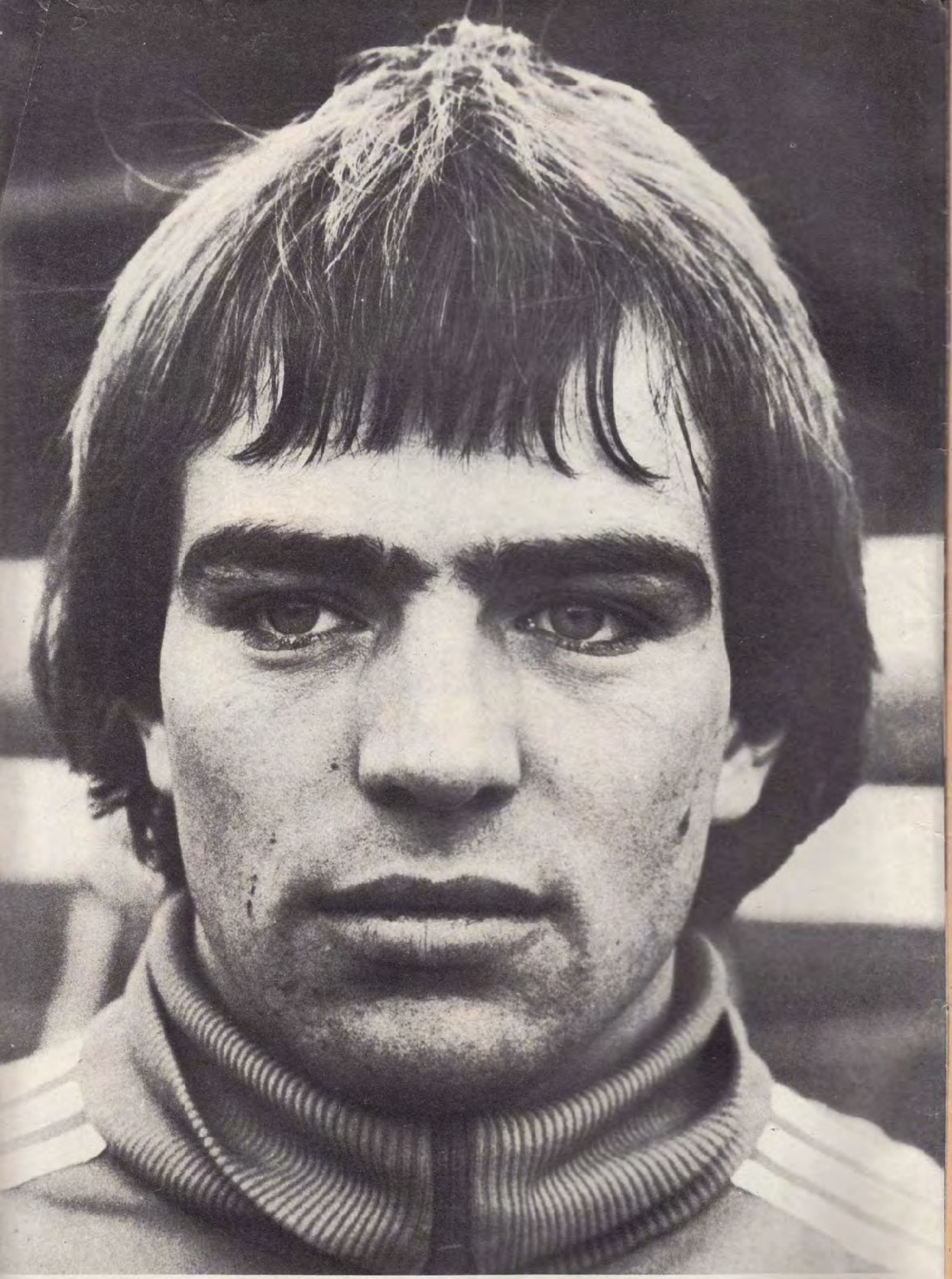


PIETRO FANNA Juventus

World SOCCER

Francis for a million!

TREVOR FRANCIS outfaced Brian Clough to become Britain's first £1 million footballer at three o'clock on the afternoon of Friday, February 9.

Only Coventry had been serious challengers to Nottingham Forest for the signature of the England forward whose potential had been wasted so long at Birmingham.

Coventry had been front-runners for his signature, above all because of their tie-up with NASL club Detroit Express through Jimmy Hill. The BBC TV front man is both managing director of Coventry and involved in the Detroit consortium.

But Forest offered Francis a better chance to win trophies, though he was immediately Cup-tied as far as the Champions' Cup is concerned.

Francis had already virtually agreed to return to Detroit in the summer and Forest reluctantly agreed to let him fulfil his American end of the bargain — though Clough probably estimated that a full season in four competitions with Forest next year might well persuade Francis that summer is the time for a holiday proper rather than a busman's version!

Francis's transfer doubled the previous British record, set a month before when West Bromwich paid £516,000 for the uncapped 27-year-old Middlesbrough forward David Mills. It also came within striking distance of the present world record — the £1.5 million Lanerossi Vicenza paid — or rather, agreed to pay — Juventus for a HALF-SHARE in Italian World Cup centre forward Paolo Rossie.

Francis, 24, was born and brought up in Plymouth and joined Birmingham as a 15-year-old apprentice when Stan Cullis was manager. He made his debut in the leage at 16 and soon after scored four times in a game against Bolton. He totalled 279 league matches and 118 goals for Birmingham and was the main reason they managed to cling on so long in the First Division.

The transfer deal totalled £1,150,500, made up thus: fee £975,000; 8pc VAT £78,000; 10pc levy £97,500 (of which Francis receives £48,750).

Hoeness for Bayern

ULI HOENESS, a member of West Germany's 1974 World Cup-winning team and a key figure in Bayern Munich's European domination, is to become manager of his old club.

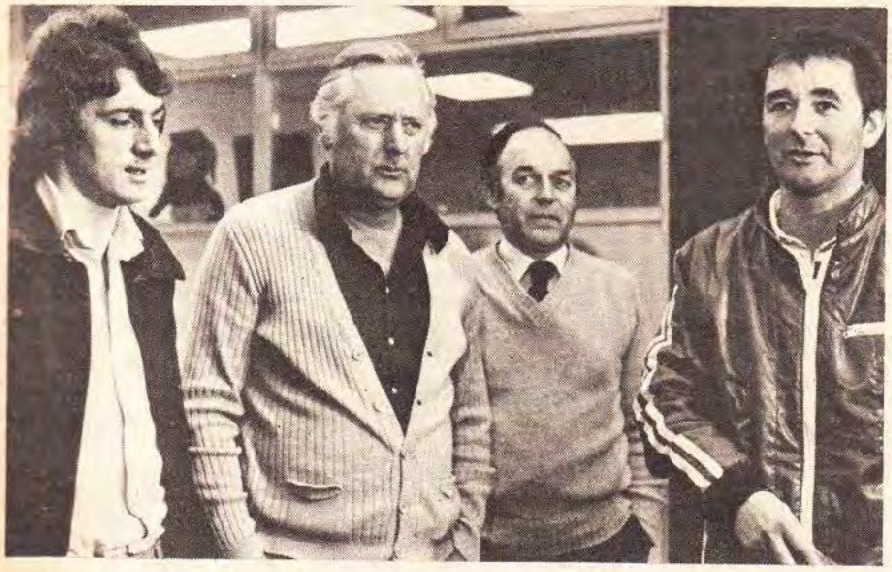
Hoeness is at present on loan to Nürnberg, but will return to his new post with Bayern at the season's end.

The shock announcement rings a sudden curtain down on the injury-plagued career of the blond forward whose 31 caps for West Germany, included a key role in the 1972 European championship victory.

Hoeness, still only 27, has suffered a series of knee operations since being injured against Leeds in the 1975 Champions' Cup Final in Paris. His last major role in international football was in the 1976 European championship, when his penalty miss gave Czechoslovakia the opening to take the title.

MONEY ROLLS IN

ALREADY the money is rolling in for the 1982 World Cup – and how! West Nally, the London group who paid FIFA £6 million for the advertising rights in Argentina, have agreed an £11 million deal – virtually twice the amount – for Spain 1982.



Trevor Francis (left) with Nottingham Forest Assistant Manager Peter Taylor, Secretary Ken Smailes and Manager Brian Clough.

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Action from a World Cup match between Brazil and Austria is featured on our front cover this month.

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BENFICA AND PORTO DRAW . . .

THE clash of the season between Benfica and Porto attracted a 70,000 crowd in Lisbon and ended with a division of the points after a 1-1 draw.

Over 7,000 fans travelled from Oporto coming in by air, train, bus and car. The day they chose was not a bright one and incessant rain made the game something of a lottery, though it was hard fought throughout.

Benfica dominated the early stages and went ahead in the 23rd minute after a shot by Reinaldo was handled on the line and Alves scored from the penalty spot.

So much were Benfica on top that their goalkeeper Bento did not stop his first shot until the 25th minute and up to half time had only been concerned with three of four back passes from defenders.

The change in the game's fortunes arrived in the 57th minute when Porto brought on Vital a forward as a substitute. And shortly afterwards a cross from the left was headed by Vital to Duda standing unmarked and he levelled the scores, despite Benfica protests about offside.

Porto were reduced to ten men in the later stages when Marco Aurelio collided with the Benfica captain Toni and had to be carried off with a leg injury. But they held firm until the end.

Setubal were looking good for a win against third placed Sporting with two goals after 49 minutes but the visitors pulled one back and in the last minute Vitor Baptista equalised for them.

Luxembourg encouragement

WITH the weather restricting the programme, the national team arranged to play a couple of friendlies against Metz the French League club.

They had no professionals in the side and not surprisingly lost away 3-0, but a return game when the weather position eased produced a 3-2 win for Luxembourg which must have been something of an encouragement for national coach Louis Pilot.

Partizan choose

PARTIZAN's choice as new trainer is Matckalo a former player who has been in charge of the youth team in recent years. And he has chosen two ex-players as assistants in Miladinovic and Kovacevic.

With the resumption after the winter break still to arrive, there have been other coaches on the move. Olympia have replaced Professor Elsner with Varagic while the one-time Marseille trainer Karkovic has taken over with the Croatian League side Karlovci.

One-time international goalkeeper Pantelic has become a trainer for goalkeepers at Vojvodina who also expect to sign a forward Nikezic who has been playing in Austria.

Discussions have been held with the Yugoslavian TV authorities over the coverage given to the game and the fact that almost all the highlights of matches are being shown on the box which leaves little incentive for would-be-stay-at-home supporters.

New names for Poland

THE Polish squad bound for Tunisia for a training period produced a few fresh names for the build up towards European Championship qualifying matches.

Dotted here and there were a few familiar faces, the most well known of them being those like Zmuda, Cmikiewicz, Boniek and Lato.

Full squad: Goalkeepers: Mlynarczak, Kukla; Szymanowski, Zmuda, Janas, Rudy, Dziuba; Midfield: Cmikiewicz, Majewski, Boniek, Faber, Sobol; Forwards: Lato, Ogaza, Mazur, Sybis.

Defenders

Of the less familiar people defenders Dziuba (23) and Janas (25), midfield player Sobol (25) and forwards Mazur (25) and Sybis (26) are not exactly lacking in experience at other levels.

National team manager Ryszard Kulesza is obviously not going to experiment with untried talent, however promising it might be.

Wisla Krkow touring Australia beat an Australian XI 3-1 in Sydney.

AEK — ONE POINT LEAD

AT the half-way stage of the season AEK Athens have a point lead from Aris Salonika and Olympiakos with Panathinaikos and PAOK Salonika seven points further away and apparently out of the championship hunt.

AEK also have the top scorer in the competition so far in Thomas Mavros who has 14 goals while the second highest is AEK's Yugoslavian Dusan Bajevic with ten.

However, the popularity stakes reveal a different story with the traditional giants Olympiakos holding sway with an average gate of 24,293. Next best supported side is Panathinaikos with 15,330 while AEK are third with 13,166.

Average attendance in the First Division is 8,368 which is not too promising since the final figures for the second half of the season will almost certainly reduce the average further.

Lato of Poland

DUTCH CLUBS LOOK ABROAD

WITH an enforced shut-down because of the weather, several clubs in Holland were seeking foreign shores in order to keep their players in active trim. PSV Eindhoven went to Benidorm in search of the sun as well.

In keeping with the cold weather, Dutch clubs have been active in Iceland, trying to sign some promising youngsters who are virtually cheap compared with known stars from other European countries.

Feyenoord had hoped to persuade Petur Petursson the Icelandic international striker to join them and they were also concerned in the transfer market by selling Houtman to FC Bruges in Belgium and buying Second Division star Peters from Den Bosch.

Holland

The exodus of players from Holland may be finding a new channel to the USA now that ex-AZ 67 boss Hans Kraay has signed a contract with Oakland Stompers.

Twente Enschende have replaced the PSV bound defender Wildschut with Den Haag's Zondervan.

With this season's attendances not being too bright it is interesting to note that in 1973-74 the average crowd in the First Division was 12,179 but by last season it had slumped to 10,159.

Goalscoring fell over the same period from 3.10 goals per game to only 2.79 last season.

Kovenkamp of AZ'67 Alkmaar.

Boost for Beveren

AFTER virtually a month without the weather allowing any League football, the championship resumed its second half with leaders Beveren scoring a useful 1-0 win away to RWD Molenbeek.

Nearest rivals Anderlecht also won away 2-1 to Beerschot but are still four points adrift of the top team. But only four points separate Anderlecht from the ninth place club Beringen.

This season has been notable for another big round of managerial changes, highlighted probably by the departure of FC Bruges boss Ernst Happel. His replacement is Andras Beres a Hungarian from the Puskas era and a right-winger in those days.

Later in his career as a coach he went to Holland before taking up an appointment with Spora Luxembourg. He has managed three other Belgian clubs in the past: Beerschot, Daring and Anderlecht.

Charleroi have a new trainer as well in Jean Piccinin a former player who has taken over from Felix Week the one-time Anderlecht goalkeeper who earned his reputation as a coach to Union, Crossing and RWD Molenbeek.

At Courtrai there is the departure of ex-Anderlecht full-back Georges Heylens from the managerial berth after only 18 months. He has been replaced by a duo of Maertens and Brncic the latter a Yugoslavian who was formerly a player at Rijeka.

FC Liege have had rather more upheaval in this department in recent times. First Hubert Martens was replaced by another twosome in Wegria and Curcic another from Yugoslavia. Both were former Liege players. But now Sylvestre Takac a 38 year old Yugoslavian who played in France before joining Standard Liege has been handed the reins.

Beerschot's association with the legendary Rik Coppens has also been ended with George Knobel taking charge from him. Knobel was Holland's national team boss from 1974-1976 and had a season with Ajax after some seven years with MVV Maastricht.

Yet Knobel's first game in charge of Beerschot was not a happy one as they lost 5-0 to Waterschei.

One manager who has kept his position despite a shaky season is Leon Semmeling.

This 39 year old former Standard winger who played for Belgium as well has retained his managership of La Louviere — for the present at least.

The season has been extended into June and this is assuming there are no further interruptions.

Thumbs down for Colombia

HERMANN NEUBERGER, the West German chairman of FIFA's 1982 World Cup committee, has given Colombia's 1986 chances the thumbs down.

Neuberger said in Frankfurt that once FIFA had taken the decision to increase the finals entry to 24 for Spain, there was not going back.

He added: "There would be only seven or eight countries which could manage such a big field of participants, and Colombia is not one of them."

The odd fact is that though UEFA are opposed to the idea of 24 finalists, it is the European countries who would be best placed to stage finals of this size because of comparatively small distances, good communications and plenty of stadia all with big match experience thanks to the European competitions.

There have been vague suggestions that Colombia might combine with neighbouring Venezuela to stage a 24-team World Cup, but the chances of that are remote to say the least.

The most interesting suggestion concerning the World Cup's future, and being heard more often in the corridors of power, is that instead of increasing the number of finalists, the number should be reduced from the present 16 to eight.

That would certainly open up the possibilities of staging the finals for many more countries and might provide a better vehicle for FIFA missionary work than the present token guaranteed representation for the Third World.

A lot of gossip in Brazil . . .

IN Sao Paulo the Championship started again after the holidays and Guarani are still the best team. They beat Palmeiras 2-1 and now lead Group "A" with 14 points.

In this group Portuguesa Santista are second with 10 points, Juventus have 9, Palmeiras 7 and Paulista 6.

Ponte Preta and Francana lead group "B" with 9 points, while Marilia, Sao Paulo and Sao Bento have 7 points.

Corinthians, Botafogo and Comercial lead group "C" with 7 points, while America have 6 points and Noroeste 4.

Santos

XV de Piracicaba lead group "D" with 12 points, Santos have 9 points and XV de Jau, Ferroviaria and Portuguesa de Desportos have 8 points.

In Rio the 1979 championship started with Fluminense beating Goytacaz 4-0 and Botafogo beating Americana also 4-0, while America beat Volta Redonda 4-2.

News from ERIC WEIL

Nuevo Leon the leaders in Mexico . . .

UNIVERSIDAD de Nuevo Leon continues with the best record in the four groups as the 1978/9 Mexican First Division Championship went past the half way stage with 20 of the 38 matches played by each team.

Nuevo Leon has an eight-point lead with an 11-7-2 record in a season in which leading teams are dropping their fair share of points.

The Mexican First Division is divided into four sections of five teams each, but with each club also playing teams outside its own section. Group winners eventually qualify for play-offs. The system is copied from American Football and is designed to keep the season alive right to the end.

America, the team with all the stars — including Brazilian World Cup midfielder Dirceu who has had difficulty in making the first team — and current America Cup holders (by virtue of beating Libertadores Cup holders Boca Juniors of Argentina for the title after becoming Central American club champions) trail joint group one leaders Monterrey and Guadalajara by two points — a difference they just cannot seem to make up. America were beaten 2-1 by modest Puebla, missing an opportunity to reach the top and after finally joining the two leaders, they lost 3-2 at home to Toluca to remain two points off the pace again.

Meanwhile the Mexican national team, under a new coach and with some new faces, started preparing for two meetings with the Soviet Union — in Los Angeles and either Tampico or Monterrey (on January 31 and February 6) — and another match against the United States later. José Moncebaez has been named provisional coach by the Mexican FA and his 20-man squad for these first international matches since Mexico's poor showing — three defeats — in the World Cup finals in Argentina last year includes 12 of the same players.

Moncebaez had already been in charge of the junior team which won the recent Central, North American and Caribbean Junior Championship to qualify for the Junior World Cup finals in Japan later this year. If he obtains good results, it is likely that he will continue to be in charge of the squad for the 1982 (senior) World Cup.

Independiente, Argentina National Champions for the second year. Standing left to right: Pegnanoni, Baley, Perez, Villaverde, I. Insaurralde, Fren. Front: Alzamendi, Larrosa, Outes, Bochini, Barberon.

Bochini stars as 'Mr Champion'

RICARDO BOCHINI was undoubtedly Independiente's "Mr Champion" as they won their second Argentine national title in a row — just as he had been a year earlier in the final stages when they won the title before. Yet inbetween the versatile midfielder — who also scored the vital goals in each of these championship wins — was a surprising absentee from Argentina's World Cup winning squad.

Bochini was perhaps the only player who's exclusion from national team coach Cesar Menotti's final 22 for last year's World Cup raised a few querying eyebrows. But the player is the first to admit that after last year's national title win he lost form and was not worth his place in the World Cup line up, specially as there seemed to be an abundance of midfield men in form. Yet he is happy to have got over his lean spell in time to help his club to win another title and few can doubt that he is one of the most intelligent, versatile and hardest working "fetch and carry" men in Argentina soccer today.

But Bochini is quick to point out that his return to form was helped by the improvement of the Independiente team as a whole as he thinks he is the kind of player who is unable to make an impression without the help of his team mates.

Modesty apart, there may be some truth in what he says. Bochini, now 24, rose to fame five years ago together with striker Daniel Bertoni, just a few months younger, who was transferred to Spain's Barcelona after helping Argentina to win the World Cup last year. The two formed an excellent understanding with Indepdiente and also in the South American Junior Championship in 1973 in which Mario Kempes also lined up for Argentina and which they lost on corners in the final against Brazil.

The duo was also tried successfully for short periods in Argentina's full national team in 1977 in a series of team building matches which included draws against England and Scotland in Buenos Aires, but later Bochini failed to live up to his reputation and was dropped from the squad.

Bochini — they call him "Bocha" (ball) as an abbreviation of his name and a reference to his big, ball shaped head — was signed by Independiente as a junior from an amateur team in Zarate (some 50 miles from Buenos Aires) where he was helping his father as a bricklayer. This was in 1969 and he was 14. Three years later, while still playing in the fifth team, he was sent on as substitute in a first division match 16 minutes from the end and was an immediate success. In 1973 he played for Argentina in the South American Junior Championship (as mentioned).

Ricardo Bochini of Independiente.

COUTINHO STAYS IN CHARGE

Contrary to expectations, the Brazilian Sports Confederation confirmed that controversial World Cup coach Caludio Coutinho would continue to be in charge of the country's national team in this year's South American Championship.

BRAZIL MEET ARGENTINA

THE South American Football Confederation (CSF), meeting at Montevideo during the South American Junior Championship (America Cup) and this season's South American club championship for the Libertadores Cup.

The South American nations championship will this year be played under the same system as when it was last held in 1975 — in three groups of three countries playing each other home and away with the winners qualifying for the semi-finals together with defending champions Peru. Group matches have to be completed by September 30.

The semi-finals and final will be played as a two-legged k.o. (home and away) and all 10 affiliated countries must participate under the threat of a heavy fine.

As the three 1975 semi-finalists (apart from eventual winners Peru) were made group heads — and Argentina were not among them — the World Cup holders are in the group headed by Brazil and this will be the outstanding clash of the round. The groups were drawn as follows:

Group 1: COLUMBIA, Chile, Venezuela; Group 2: BRAZIL, Argentina, Bolivia; Group 3: URUGUAY, Paraguay, Ecuador.

Bolivian clubs are not participating in the Libertadores Cup this year as the Bolivian FA wanted to enter amateur teams in this professional tournament. The professional league, which has broken away from the Bolivian FA, had not finished its season at the time of the draw, but in any case, the Bolivian FA did not want to enter their clubs for the Cup.

Another late change was made in Venezuela's representation as champions Portuguesa successfully claimed the points from a match they lost to vice-champions Estudiantes towards the end of the season. This automatically put Deportivo Galicia into second place and qualified them for the Cup.

This year's first round group draw, with Ecuador's two representatives and one from Paraguay not yet decided at press time, is as follows with games scheduled from February 28 to April 15:

Group 1: Independiente and Quilmes (Argentina), Millionaires and Deportivo Cali (Colombia). **Group 2:** Olimpia and one other team from Paraguay. **Group 3:** Guarani and Palmeiras (Brazil), Alianza Lima and Universitario (Peru). **Group 4:** Palestino and O'Higgins (Chile), Portuguesa and Deportivo Galicia. **Group 5:** Penarol and Nacional (Uruguay), Ecuador's champion and vice-champion to be decided.

As usual, the five group winners (after home and away legs) qualify for two semi-final groups of three teams each together with champions Boca Juniors of Argentina. The two semi-final group winners play the two-legged final.

Chilean First Division Champions. Palestino: Standing left to right: Araya, Fabbiani, Fuantes, Dubo, Figueroa, Herrera. Kneeling: Lazbal, Zalada, Massen, Varas, Pinto.

One million is no good

Speaking Personally with LESLIE VERNON

IF YOU knew Cloughie like I know Cloughie, oh, oh, oh what a boy! — to rephrase the old hit song in order to suit my monthly sermon. I do like Brian Clough; he can be infuriating, but he is kind, considerate and a supremely talented manager. He is also, at times, to quote the always quotable Ian Wooldridge of the Daily Mail, abrasive, domineering, impulsive, arrogant and bullying!

Clough has real concern for the underprivileged, targets of the unspeakable National Front, sacked journalists, terrace behaviour, etc. He is usually on the right side of angels, in any case.

I habitually find myself in agreement with his off-the-field crusades, and one can only judge another human being subjectively. But now I have to report with sorrow in my heart that this champion of deserving causes has done a great disservice to the game he professes to love.

He paid one million-one hundred and fifty thousand pounds for a footballer called Trevor Francis. This foolish act would have been just as damaging a few weeks ago as it is now. But in the present economic climate, with the rubbish piling high on our streets, striking ambulance men, school caretakers and hospital workers manning hostile picket lines, it seems positively indecent. And please don't accuse me of linking unrelated events.

When Savoldi was sold to Naples for a total fee of around one-and-half million pounds, there were questions asked in the Italian Parliament, and there were street demonstrations signalling exactly the same juxtaposition.

Transfer fees even in football-crazy Italy have been less extravagant recently, and no Spanish club ever paid such an exorbitant figure for one player. Yet, in those countries, admission prices are much higher than here, and star personalities draw large crowds to even the most meaningless of friendlies.

I acknowledge that others, notably Coventry City, were also willing to pay this ridiculous sum for Francis, but as they didn't have the opportunity to do so, our criticism must be directed at Nottingham Forest and Brian Clough.

The day after the deal was done, every British professional footballer must have felt a sense of elation, because his value had suddenly gone-up. In other words, the transfer market — idiotic at the best of times — was blown sky high.

"If Francis is worth a million, how much would you ask for Liam Brady?" Denis Hill-Wood, the Arsenal Chairman posed the hypothetical question. O.K. but how much would be the reasonable price for a Second Division striker or a First Division full-back? And who could afford to pay those inflated prices? Only the big clubs with their massive receipts, or anyone else who is in the same rat-race for trophies, headlines and success?

Clough is guilty of changing the face of English football with the stroke of a pen. Heaven knows, Francis is probably one of the 'nicest', most pleasant young players I have ever met. Nobody can blame him or even his club Birmingham for cashing-in on other people's greed for glory. But what happened to the 'freedom of contract' farce?

The promise that transfer fees would be governed by a sober system of set figures or by an equally sober Independent Tribunal with the best interests of the game as their guiding light! Forest could point out that last season, Manchester United lavished a similar amount on just two Leeds players — Jordan and McQueen.

Injury prone

This term, Tottenham spent over a million on Ardiles, Villa, Lacy and Gordon Smith. But at least these clubs didn't put all their eggs in one injury-prone basket, and in the process, didn't inflate the value of players out of all proportions.

Jim Smith, the Birmingham manager, said after completing the deal of a lifetime: "I'm amazed that Brian Clough has allowed Francis to play in America. It was only 12 months ago that he criticised Birmingham's decision to allow the player to go on loan to Detroit Express. In fact, Clough was quoted as saying: "Francis would do himself a lot better lying on the beach in Spain during the summer instead of playing in the States".

Firstly, what right has a manager to interfere in another club's affairs? Secondly, what is bad for the Birmingham goose is equally bad for the Nottingham gander!

How can any player give his best non-stop for 12 months? Clough said that he had no alternative because Trevor Francis has a valid contract with Detroit. But neither the manager nor the player seemed to realize that unless Francis wears a Forest shirt before August 15, he cannot play for the club in Europe until the quarter-finals.

n pound deal
l for football

Trevor Francis — the subject of England's first £1 million deal.

(It never ceases to astonish me how little "the professionals" know about the rules and regulations relating to competitions they are involved in. For instance, Kevin Keegan said in a recent "Sunday People" interview that Hamburg will not be seeded next season in Europe, and that they might play Liverpool in the first round of the Champions' Cup. I have good news for him! There is absolutely no danger of that pairing, because both Liverpool, as European Cup winners of 1978, and Hamburg, as Cup Winners Cup winners of 1977 will be seeded in whichever competition they qualify for.)

So Cloughie paid over a million pounds for a player who is not even available to him for an important part of the season. In fact, he has created a Trans-Atlantic superstar, who will commute between England and the States, picking-up a small fortune at each venue.

This phenomenon is quite a novelty, not only in this country but in footabll at large — it is unthinkable that, for instance, Barcelona would agree to the same arrangements concerning Krankl, or that Rensenbrink would spend half his time with Anderlecht and the other half with, let's say, Cosmos.

As you might have gathered, I don't like the Francis package one little bit. Not because I have any animosity towards an enterprising Nottingham Forest side which is always entertaining and a credit to football. Not because I begrudge Francis his good fortune of having his bread buttered on both sides. But because such deals bring the game into disrepute in the eyes of the public.

If anyone else would have been involved with it, Brian Clough would have been the first one to condemn it — loudly, honestly, arrogantly!

I congratulate Kevin Keegan on his well-deserved election as European Footballer of the Year. But while the 'Mighty Mouse' is an excellent player, his name doesn't conjure up the same elation as several of those of the previous winners. Where are the Di Stefanos, Mathewses and Beckenbauers of present-day football? Or am I perhaps too critical?

Improvement

It is curious that in every sport where performances can be measured, there is a continuous improvement. And I am convinced that Borg or Connors could easily beat anyone of the old time great tennis players — at their peak. So, what's wrong with football? Why was the World Cup so disappointing? It's a fact, that there isn't one really impressive national team anywhere, and the last eight of the current European Cup are probably the poorest in the history of this glorious competition.

Football in South America is stagnating, even the Brazilians haven't got a forward-line worth star rating. Happily, English football has slightly improved amidst all this mediocrity, and I expect to see the national team prosper in the European Championship. On club level, we shall do better than in the recent past, when only Liverpool carried the flag. This is all very gratifying, but I do wish world football would be better, more adventurous, less blackboard-bound and fear-ridden.

Come back Puskas, all is forgiven. . . .

SPAIN

by Keir Radnedge

Sporting Gijon are 'Winter Champs' ahead of Real Madrid

SHOCK halfway leaders in Spain were Sporting Gijon, who squeezed ahead of Real Madrid by eight hundreds of a goal to claim the title of winter champions.

It was a totally unexpected prize for the modest provincial club who entered this season's UEFA Cup — where they went down to Red Star Belgrade — only thanks to the fact that Barcelona won the Cup last season and went into the second European competition.

Gijon had finished fifth, their highest-ever position in a yo-yo first division career. They had four years in the 1940s, five years in two spells in the 1950s and then didn't return until 1970 when they stayed up — albeit just outside the relegation zone — until 1976.

But 1976 was also their turning point towards a better future. Down with them went Oviedo and Gijon immediately picked up the coach Oviedo had sacked, Vicente Miera.

A former international left back who played for Santander then Real Madrid — for whom he appeared in the 1962 Champions' Cup final — Miera had ended his playing career at Gijon and it was there too that he gained his first experience as a coach, with their juniors.

In 1973-74 he took over third division Langreo, very nearly got them up, and moved to Oviedo. He took them out of the second division into the first and then back down again — which is where Gijon stepped in.

Since then his career had resumed its meteoric path. Miera took Gijon back up at first attempt, then to fifth place — the highest in their history — and into the UEFA Cup. Now they have actually hit the top of the table.

Gijon's success is a family affair, for the club have three sets of brothers. In attack are two Argentines, Oscar and Enzo Ferrero, while skipper Quini is top scoring at one end as his brother, goalkeeper Jose Antonio Castro, is keeping them out at the other.

In reserves Toni and Abel Gijon also possess identical twins!

Quini is the star of the show. Twice a top scorer in the first division, in the top flight he is the only challenger to Hans Krankl at the head of the scoring charts this year. When he scored Gijon's opening goal in the 2-0 win over Hercules which lifted them above Real Madrid it was his 16th of the season — just two behind Barcelona's Austrian.

Quini, now into the veteran stage, played 23 times for Spain and has remained loyal to Gijon despite the frequent attentions of cheque-brandishing major clubs. But the past 18 months have been the first time he has been able to score goals knowing that he isn't involved in race with his leaky defence.

Miera has organised Gijon well. In defence he signed the big Argentinian, Ricardo Rezza from Salamanca, to guide and direct several bright young players on the verge of the Spanish national team. Left back Cundi has already made his international debut and so has outside right Moran. Midfielders David and Joaquin show great promise and there's no certain first team place for Javier Uria, the Real Madrid cast-off who played in the World Cup Finals, even though he can perform with equal utility in attack and defence.

Attacked

Gijon haven't escaped their share of controversy. After Quini scored the equaliser at 1-1 at Celta de Vigo in the fourth minute of injury time a local fan attacked referee Pes Perez, who had earlier sent off Gijon's Ciriaco and Celta's Mori.

The Gijon players needed a police escort as they were mobbed trying to reach the team bus.

Then, in the third round of the cup, they went down surprisingly to second division Cadiz. Gijon lost the first leg 1-0 away but were so confident of making up the deficit in the return they rested more than half their regulars. Cadiz also expected defeat, and

Di Stefano back at Valencia?

THE WRITING is on the wall for Valencia boss Marcel Domingo — president Jose Ramos Costa has been engaged in talks with Alfredo Di Stefano, who guided Valencia to the league title in 1971.

Valencia, despite all their big names, are eighth in the league, and Mario Kempes missed a penalty in their 3-0 defeat by Hercules. All three goals came from Yugoslav centre forward Miodrag Kustudic who had failed to impress Derby manager Tommy Docherty a few weeks before.

Rainer Bonhof had scored his first goal in the league for Valencia a few weeks earlier — direct from a corner.

It never rains but it pours. Valencia have been banned from their Luis Casanova stadium for one game whenever they qualify again for Europe, as a result of incidents during the third round first leg of the UEFA Cup against West Bromwich.

THE clubs appear to have won the battle over foreigners. Despite the Supreme Council for Sport's direction that no more imports should be allowed, the clubs have decisively reiterated their determination to maintain the two permits per club — though there will be a reduction in the number of *oriundi*.

* * *

JOSE ANGEL IRIBAR, Bilbao captain and record Spanish international with 49 caps, has had other matters on his mind recently — like fighting for election as a member of parliament on behalf of one of the moderate Basque parties.

* * *

PABLO PORTA, president of the FEF, is facing an increasing tide of anger over television coverage of league games. But his priority is trying to press the broadcasting authorities to cough up with the money for transmissions of internationals over the past 18 months.

* * *

NO ACTION will be taken against Barcelona for their players' refusal to submit to Belgian special branch dope tests after the Cup-winners' Cup tie with Anderlecht in Brussels.

* * *

TOURNAMENT NEWS . . . West Bromwich Albion complete the quartet for the most prestigious of summer tournaments, the Teresa Herrera in Coruna. Real Madrid (holders), Vasco da Gama and Honved are their rivals on August 13-15. Madrid's own Santiago Bernabeu tournament will feature Ajax, Bayern Munich and Milan in a home-and-away *liguilla* towards the end of this season.

Preliminary match of the King's Cup held in January between Real Madrid and Atletico Madrid. Left to right: Sol, Rubio, San Jose, Ruben Cano.

fielded eight reserves! Nevertheless it was Cadiz, thanks to a last-minute goal from striker Modigo, who earned a 2-2 draw and a place in the next round.

And what of Real Madrid while all this excitement was building up in Asturias?

The day Gijon won in Alicante to take over at the top, Madrid were being held 1-1 at Santander in a battle in the mud which highlighted the remarkable return to first-team duty of goalkeeper Mariano Garcia Remon.

Madrid were 1-0 up when, just before half-time, Santander were awarded a penalty.

Santander's lively young winger Marcos — son of one-time Madrid favourite Marquitos — had a shot blocked by the arm of Isidro while goalkeeper Miguel Angel was lying injured. Spain's first-choice had to be helped off and Garcia Remon ran on as substitute and immediately blocked Madariaga's spot kick.

Expulsion

Santander eventually equalised in a second half in which their own Genupi and Madrid's Stielike were both lucky to escape expulsion. But for Garcia Remon there were more astonishing moments to come.

The following Wednesday Madrid faced neighbours Atletico in their Cup second leg. Madrid had drawn 1-1 away but despite going quickly 2-0 ahead in the return in Chamartin were lucky to hang on for a 2-2 draw at the end of extra time.

Up until about 10 years ago the rules permitted for the teams to go on playing until either side scored, but now after 120 minutes penalties decide matters.

Incredibly Garcia Remon saved kicks from both Ruben Cano and Leivinha and Madrid won through 4-1. It's worth recalling that the 'Odessa Cat' has a long reputation for saving penalties. In a pre-season tournament when he was new to Madrid in 1971 he saved no fewer than five.

That Cup game saw the surprisingly quick return of Juanito after injury, and his reappearance was the spur Madrid needed to put their game back together and reclaim their place at the head of the league. As I write they have 27 points from 19 games, with Gijon back on 25, Atletico, Real Sociedad and Las Palmas on 22, and Barcelona on 21.

But it was Barcelona who claimed a little bit of history in thrashing Rayo Vallecano 9-0. It was the biggest league win for 20 years. Krankl scored five goals, Johan Neeskens two. Rayo, slipping quickly into the relegation zone, promptly asked Real Madrid if they could borrow three of the stars of Madrid's affiliated second division club, Castilla.

Madrid will probably say yes, now that Castilla have acquired the Argentine centre forward Armando Husillos on loan from Boca Juniors.

Incidentally the last 9-0 win in the first division was claimed by Bilbao against . . . Gijon. They've come a long way since then!

The King's Cup match between Real and Athletico ended 2-2. From left: Arteche (4), Jensen, Capon, Guerini.

Northern Ireland beaten 4-1 at Wembley —

England win doubts contin

ENGLAND are poised, for the first time in ELEVEN YEARS, to reach the final tournament of one of the two major international events.

Now, as in 1968, it was the European championship which provided the setting, and England's chances soared after their 4-0 Wembley defeat of Northern Ireland.

England have taken five points from three games while Bulgaria, expected in advance to be their most dangerous rivals — or most awkward at any rate — have played two games, taken just one point and are bottom of the group one table.

Bulgaria could make up some leeway by defeating England in Sofia on June 6 but in the long run that would probably not be enough.

Certainly the victory over Northern Ireland went a long way to instilling confidence in England's prospects, but I was surprised by the runaway reaction to the victory.

While Kevin Keegan and Trevor Brooking were outstanding it was anything but a match

Steve Coppell (left) heads for goal but Irish goalkeeper Pat Jennings (out of picture) saves brilliantly.

BRITISH football has taken a definite turn for the better since Danny Blanchflower took over Northern Ireland and Ron Greenwood was given the England job. And if Jock Stein cannot find answers for Scotland's headaches then I will come to the view that they are impossible to solve.

But after the comprehensive demolition of Northern Ireland by England at Wembley I still have very serious doubts about the strength of the current England side.

Northern Ireland pulled in a £315,000 gate plus a sizeable TV fee that would have been unthinkable before Blanchflower revitalised the men in green and Greenwood gave the English fans some faith in their side.

But though Northern Ireland did well to win 2-0 against Bulgaria in Sofia I felt at the time that too much was being read into it, and after the recent Wembley game I am sure that the Bulgarians were over-rated.

Danny's front line never gave up, battled hard throughout the first half with a lot of aggression and plenty of support from the back. But when England knocked in two early goals in the second half, the Irishmen lost belief in themselves and all was lost.

Not having seen their game in Sofia I can only surmise that the Bulgarians were unable to cope with the bustling Irish twin strikers, Caskey and Armstrong while at the other end the Arsenal dominated rearguard probably gave very few chances to the Bulgarian forwards who I know to be shot shy.

This went through my mind at Wembley where Dave Watson & Co were certainly not intimidated by the burly Irish strikers, meeting such players every week in league games, but when the crunch came it was clear that, apart from the occasional thrust by Sammy McIlroy, the Irish attack was in fact very short of ideas.

Thinking back I have never felt that the Bulgarians were a strong football country, and though in the time of Ivan Kolev they looked like mini-Hungarians, they were never at their best against physically strong sides; never able to accept rough tackling and still cut swathes through defences as Puskas, Kociis and Hidegkuti did for Hungary.

In fact, the only really top class centre forward that Bulgaria has produced since the last war was Georgi Asparukhov, tragically killed in a car crash after he had 'mugged' Jack Charlton to score a fine goal for Bulgaria in their 1-1 draw at Wembley, way back.

Again, I remember during a Bulgarian holiday by the sea, meeting by chance the coach of Levski-Spartak who was also

two views from Keir Radnedge and Eric Batty

but

nue . . .

to live in the memory, with few flowing moves from either side and, as England manager Ron Greenwood admitted afterwards: "We were sloppy in the second half when we might have had some more goals."

For Northern Ireland it was a sad night. There was little of the patriotic fervour associated with the green shirts and in attack their only hope rested on the first-half uncertainty of Dave Watson and Emlyn Hughes.

Both men improved after the interval — Watson scoring the third goal — but an inkling of doubt was kindled about how long Greenwood's present defence can hang together.

Result

Northern Ireland manager Danny Blanchflower echoed this feeling when he said: "Keegan was the difference between the teams. If he'd been on our side we might have nicked the result because we would have been better able to attack the weaknesses in the England defence."

All this is not to take away the fact that England scored a comfortable win to make Northern Ireland look the outsiders they are.

But if Keegan was the difference on one side, it's not possible to overlook the unimpressive form of Pat Jennings, the Irish captain playing his 75th international in goal.

I thought Jennings at fault for the first goal (by Keegan) in not coming out to knock away Steve Coppell's cross, and generally lacking in command of his penalty box. He was unfortunate to be baulked as Brooking's corner provided Watson's goal and there was little he could have done about Latchford's two — but once that vital first goal had gone in the Irish were bound to be chasing shadows.

England's disputed third goal. Dave Watson (right) heads home a corner from Trevor Brooking . . . but did Mick Mills (3) foul Pat Jennings?

Blanchflower criticised Swedish referee Ulf Ericsson for not seeing the obstruction on Jennings (committed, I thought by an Irish player) and also for refusing a penalty appeal when Ray Clemence jumped all over Sammy McIlroy as they challenged for an awkwardly bouncing ball.

But to my mind Blanchflower's most interesting comment was in referring to the "rugby tactics" of some of England's defenders, in using their arms and elbows in the tackle.

"If they do that in Sofia they could pay a heavy price," he warned.

The fact remains that by virtue of beating the Irish by four clear goals, England can journey to Sofia in full confidence of their path to the finals.

England: Clemence — Neal (Liverpool), Watson (Man. City), Hughes (Liverpool, capt), Mills (Ipswich) — Currie (Leeds), Brooking (West Ham) — Coppell (Man. Utd), Latchford (Everton), Keegan (Hamburg), Barnes (Man. City).

Northern Ireland: Jennings (Tottenham, capt) — Rice (Arsenal), C. Nicholl (Southampton), J. Nicholl (Man. Utd), Nelson (Arsenal) — McIlroy, McCreery (Man. Utd), O'Neill (Nottingham Forest) — Cochrane (Middlesbrough), Armstrong (Tottenham), Caskey (Derby). Subs: Spence (Blackpool) for Caskey 50 mins; McGrath (Man. Utd) for Cochrane 81.

group one	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	2	1	0	9	5	5
N. Ireland	4	2	1	1	4	5	5
Rep. Ireland	3	0	3	0	4	4	3
Denmark	4	0	2	2	9	11	2
Bulgaria	2	0	1	1	2	4	1

To play: May 2 — Rep. Ireland v Denmark, N. Ireland v Bulgaria. May 23 — Bulgaria v Rep. Ireland. June 6 — Bulgaria v England, Denmark v N. Ireland. Sep 12 — England v Denmark. Oct 17 — N. Ireland v England, Rep. Ireland v Bulgaria. Oct 31 — Bulgaria v Denmark. Nov 21 — England v Bulgaria, N. Ireland v Rep. Ireland. Feb 6, 1980 — England v Rep. Ireland.

a guest in my hotel. We had one all night session talking shop, and I recall telling him how impressed I had been by a free kick Bulgaria worked and scored from against Peru in the Mexico World Cup.

The big Levski men laughed like a drain, clapped me on the back and said very seriously: "That was the only good thing our national team has done in the last fifteen years."

Thus it seems to me that the Bulgarians have been over-rated, and too much was read into the 2-0 success that Danny's men recorded in Sofia, and then of course it followed that Northern Ireland must be a very good side having beaten Bulgaria away.

Although England skated it in the second half; while the Irish were battling away under Danny's magic spell in the first 45 minutes, England stuttered into attack only spasmodically. There was one fine move straight down the middle that was worth a goal but came to nothing, and if Keegan, Brooking, Currie, Coppell and Barnes are all the kind of player that England should persevere with — and Latchford too while he continues to get important goals in the games that count — I am still having very grave reservations about the defence.

At the back, only Watson consistently impresses, though even he gives the ball away badly when forced on to his left foot. He would do better to 'play rugby' and try to find touch as far upfield as possible with his left foot. But Watson is still a fine player despite this shortcoming, and while I believe that Peter Shilton will eventually force his way into the team, it is not only the goalkeeper that worries me.

Hughes, Mills and Neal must all, in my view, be replaced before England go to Italy for the European championship quarter finals in 1980. If they are not then I can see foreign forwards, playing the ball up to feet and more skilful on the ground than the usual British type strikers, tearing paths big enough to drive bulldozers through the route to the England goal.

Viv Anderson did well enough in his outing against the Czechs to suggest that he will eventually take Neal's place, but where are the other two defenders who are as good on the ground as they are in the air?

Ron Greenwood is right to take things slowly and let his players settle down together, but I am sure he knows that the defence needs drastic surgery and changes could well come in the British championship.

WEST GERMANY

FC KAISER UP THEIR

by Arthur Rotmil

WHEN the 1.FC Kaiserslautern took over the leadership of the *Bundesliga* on the first day of the season, nobody took very much notice. When the "provincials" still led after six matches it prompted the comment:

"They won't stay ahead very much longer". In the seventh championship round Bayern Munich climbed to the top, but only for one week. Then the "Lauterer" stormed back and now everybody accepts them as serious title contenders.

Once upon a time Kaiserslautern was the German's favourite team. That was just after the war, when the talk was of the "Red Devils from Betzenberg", when Fritz Walter was the idol of the fans, just like Beckenbauer became one 20 years later. In those days this club from the West country, the "Pfalz", fielded the brothers Fritz and Ottmar Walter, Horst Eckel, Werner Kohlmeyer and Werner Liebrich — five men who won for Germany their first World Cup in 1954.

Only twice were Kaiserslautern champions, in 1951 and 1953. But the team excited the fans with their football, because it was technically outstanding and above all, open, attacking and adventurous. A Kaiserslautern side which merely defended, one could not imagine.

In the newly created National League (*Bundesliga*) in 1963, the club was immediately accepted, but at that time the old famous team was just a legend — not one of that era was taking part in the new League. The "Lauterer" of that period were regarded by the rest just as Country bumpkins who played it so tough, especially at home, that no team liked to travel there. Because of their uncompromising methods nearly all other clubs wished Kaiserslautern a speedy . . . relegation! But the "Lauterer" didn't oblige. Up till now their best placing was 5th (1967) — the worst, 16th (1968).

In the last few years there has been a change of policy. The club even ventured abroad for new stars. From Sweden came the strikers Roland Sandberg and Benny Wendt and goalkeeper Ronnie Hellström, now rated the best in Europe (he finished 6th in the recent European "Footballer of the Year" poll). And Kaiserslautern were also lucky with their choice of manager/coaches.

Dietrich Weise and Erich Ribbeck graduated from Kaiserslautern to become now the coaches of the Football Federation (DFB). When Ribbeck left last year the club engaged no "superman", but the quiet, knowledgeable and efficient Karl-Heinz Feldkamp (44), who formerly led Arminia Bielefeld to promotion. Feldkamp has recently been voted by the sports paper "Fussball-Woche", West Germany's "Man of the Year".

Kaiserslautern's chairman is Jürgen Friedrich one of their former players and at 34 the youngest club president in the Bundesliga. But who better to lead the club? Friedrich introduced a series of reforms within the club, rebuilt the stadium, provided spectators with comfort and he takes excellent care of all the playing staff. And the old fox Fritz Walter (captain of the World Cup winners in '54) is still very much associated with his old club and often acts as adviser.

It is thanks to these men at the helm that the 1.FC Kaiserslautern is no longer looked down upon as a "parvenu" (upstart), but is now held in high esteem as an opponent to be reckoned with and feared for its footballing qualities.

Ronnie Hellström in goal, Benny Wendt in attack, are still their key men, together with the internationals, centre forward Klaus Toppmöller, midfielder Hannes Bongartz and winger Reiner Geye. They could lead the 1.FCK to their first Bundesliga title.

Kaiserslautern are only one of two *Bundesliga* clubs who own their stadium (the other is Eintracht Brunswick). The Betzenberg holds 33,000 and the average gate in the first half of this season was 30,635! This compares most favourably with last year's 21,127.

Average

At the top of the attendance table are surprisingly the *Bundesliga's* bottom club 1.FC Nürnberg, who drew on average 39,557. Next came VfB Stuttgart (38,750), Bayern Munich (37,169) and Hamburger SV (36,403). The champions Cologne, whose average last season was a healthy 34,645, have lost ground and now counted just 27,491. The worst supported clubs were Darmstadt (17,029), Werder Bremen (16,402) and MSV Duisburg (13,650).

Title holders Cologne became the last *Bundesliga* club to accept advertising on players' jerseys and promptly became the best paid. For £250,000 a year Cologne will show the name of their sponsor — a Japanese electronics firm and Hi-Fi specialists. The Hamburger SV too, have made a switch from a Japanese sponsor, having signed a new contract with a famous oil company (British in fact). Hamburg will receive £175,000 p.a. for displaying just two letters, but these are known world wide . . .

With future imports of foreigners into Spain in the balance and having settled at last in Germany, with his recently enlarged family, Kevin Keegan has extended his contract with the Hamburger SV for another year. But the proposed deal with the American club Washington Diplomats for a three-month summer stint at £60,000 fell through, because of UEFA regulations. Keegan would have been registered with the U.S. club on August 15 — the deadline for players eligible for European competitions. Hamburg are almost certain to qualify, at least for the UEFA Cup and they will be seeded. But Keegan would not have been qualified till, at the earliest, the quarter-finals and he wants to play from the start in European tournaments next season.

Another exotic newcomer to the *Bundesliga* is now making headlines: Bum-kun Cha, a 25-year-old South Korean, who allegedly holds *141* caps, has joined Darmstadt. According to the president of

Kevin Keegan signs a new one-year contract for Hamburg, whose President, Paul Benthien, looks on.

SLAUTERN KEEP EARLY PACE . . .

South Korean association in West Germany, he is "the best and most exciting footballer in Asia."

Bum-kun Cha has already made a highly promising debut at outside left, helping Darmstadt to beat VfL Bochum 3-1. He is the second Asian to play in the National League, after the Japanese Yasuhiko Okudera, who is with Cologne. The record number of 141 caps Bum-kun Cha explains with the fact, that South Korea take part in many tournaments also against club sides and every call-up counts . . .

Cologne were not exactly thrilled at having been drawn in the Champions' Cup quarter-finals against Glasgow Rangers, but manager Hennes Weisweiler prefers the Scots to a team from Eastern Europe where it is always difficult to travel and play. Cologne's general manager Karl-Heinz Thielen was dismayed, however, for after Manchester United's "fans" ran riot at a pre-season friendly, in Cologne he said the club "will never again invite a British club"!

The European draw was not too unkind to the five West German clubs: Borussia Mönchengladbach now meet Manchester City, MSB Duisburg play Honved, while Hertha Berlin oppose Dukla Prague, all in the UEFA Cup.

Progress

Fortuna Düsseldorf should progress at the expense of Servette Geneva in the Cup Winners tourney, while Cologne will make an all-out effort v. Rangers: the added incentive is the European Cup final being staged in Munich on May 30, which could give them some advantage.

The national team looks back on a less successful year than expected: the disappointment in Argentina was great and left a bitter taste. The overall record for 1978 shows in 13 matches, five wins, five draws and three defeats — goal tally 21-14 (incidentally in six games no goal was conceded). A total of 27 players was used, but only Rainer Bonhof took part in every match. The next most often used men were Maier, Kaltz, Dietz and Rummenigge, each having played twelve times. Seven new caps were introduced last year: Neumann, Hansi Müller, Förster, Konopka, Zewe, Allofs and Borchers. Of the 21 goals scored, the top marksman Bonhof got five and Rummenigge four. Interesting to note, that the 27 players came from 14 clubs(!), thus disproving the theory that the West Germans rely on club blocks. The days when Bayern Munich, or Borussia Mönchengladbach provided the bulk of the national side, are clearly over.

The national team goes into 1979 with five games scheduled till the end of the season — all of them away: v. Malta, February 25; v. Turkey (EC) April 1; v. Wales (EC) May 2; v. Eire May 23 and v. Iceland May 26.

Manager Jupp Derwall regards Wales as the main rivals and the tie at Wrexham could have a vital bearing on the outcome of this relatively easy group.

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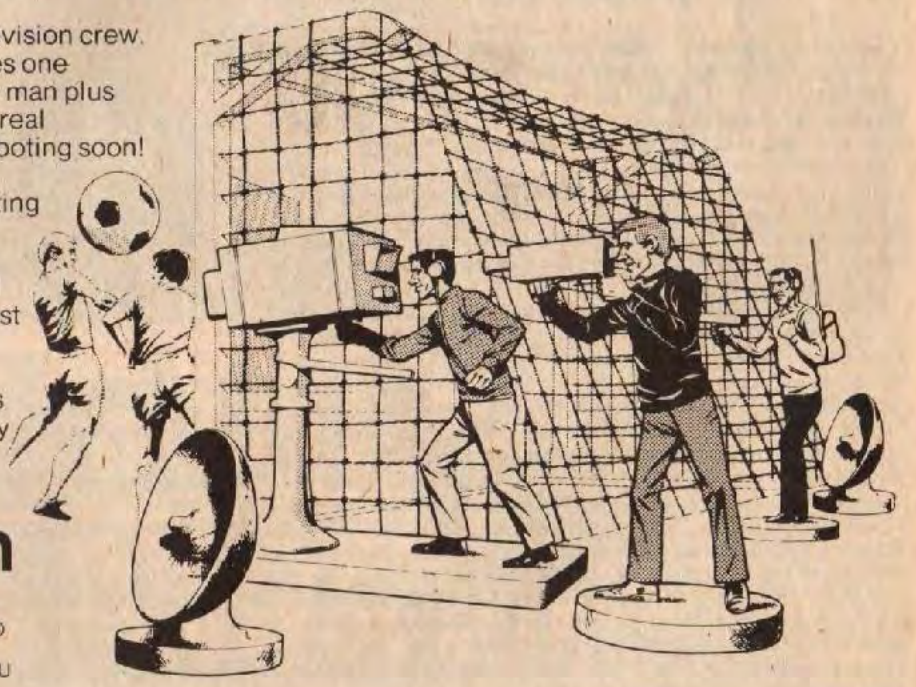

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FRANCE by Andre Duclos

Platini and his ankle in the news

WILL Michel Platini's ankle, his famous or notoriously vulnerable right ankle, hold up? Will it be doing so by the time you read this? I sincerely hope so. Nancy were violently criticised in our sporting Press for pushing him back so quickly into the team, for its Central American tour. There, as you may know, Platini promptly dislocated the ankle he had broken early in the season.

Nancy said at the time that it was nothing serious, but this was not the opinion of the Press at large. Time will tell. What I do know is that French football just cannot afford to lose its outstanding star, even if Platini in Argentina did not quite live up to all — too much perhaps? — that was expected from him, and ran into some ill judged criticism on his return home, in consequence.

You will also know, by the time you read this, whether poor, troubled Reims are managing to keep their heads above water, having been obliged, in their state of virtual bankruptcy, to sack their manager, their coach and seven players. The manager is or was the former international attacker Pierre Flamion, who understandably felt very bitter about it all. He said that he thought the "liquidators" should at least have had the decency to wait for the promised visit of M. Sadoul, the President of the French Football League (Groupement.)

The task of managing this decimated playing squad fell upon Claude Prodocimi, a 51 year-old coach who has been with the club since he signed his first schoolboy form for them at the age of 11. What his players, many of them mere raw amateurs, did for him in their first, friendly game against Paris Saint Germain — another club which has latterly had its severe troubles — was impressive. They managed a 1-1 draw in the ice and snow, and showed plenty of heart.

But how said it is to see a club which so distinguished itself in the later 1950s, twice contesting the Final of the European Cup against Real Madrid, very nearly winning the first one of all in 1956, producing such marvellous players as Raymond Kopa, Jean Vincent, signing such as Juste Fontaine, sunk so low. It is a delicate and difficult situation, since it would clearly be very unfair for clubs in line for promotion, or involved with relegation, to meet a seriously weakened Reims team while others earlier on has played the stronger version. Sad all round; and complex.

For Paris Saint Germain, meanwhile, one thing seems certain; that broken legs permitting, the incredible Carlos Bianchi — who, do not forget, played so many splendid seasons for Reims, will continue to be among the leading scorers. Though never a member of a team challenging seriously for the title, he has managed to achieve that feat in no fewer than four out of five seasons, and only a broken leg stopped him doing it on the fifth occasion.

Bianchi, who at one time seemed likely to be one of the few foreign domiciled Argentines recalled for the World Cup, is really a triumph of mind over matter.

Winter break

Lanky and prematurely bald, he is not particularly fast, doesn't control the ball terribly well or shoot particularly hard. It is just that when he gets into the penalty area, something seems to galvanise him. He scents the chance of a goal, homes in on half-possibilities, contrives to be there before the defence has become aware of danger.

It will be interesting too to see how the veteran Henri Michel of Naintes, a renowned right sided midfield player, does in his new role of sweeper. He was playing so superbly there when the winter break came along that he looked better than any other in the country; even the remarkable Marius Trésor, though the Guadeloupe born libero has, it's true, been badly affected by injuries.

Brest continue to set a hot pace in the Second Division. The international team manager, Michel Hidalgo, took advantage of the break to go and have a look at them. He was very impressed by the team, which he warmly praised, but considerably less impressed by the facilities. A new stadium, he said, would have to be built. But then it is the very knowledge of all the extra expense involved which, as I have previously explained, deterred Brest in the past from forsaking their so called "amateur" status and going all out to reach the First Division.

Georges Boulogne, once national team manager, now the senior French Federation coach, is happy about the way the game is going in France, especially among the young. The FFF's youth programme, he feels, is proving a great success, and he believes that during the five year period 1980-1985, the target of two million registered footballers will be reached. By contrast, he feels that the tactical evolution in the game at large is slow, because football has reached a certain maturity. There is a gradual blending and interacting of the defensive methods of zonal and man to man marking, but any future progress is bound to be slow, too.

Gerard Janvion of France.

Returning to the subject of Paris Saint Germain, their newly appointed manager, the ex-Yugoslav international stopper Velibor Vasovic, has made it very clear that he wants firmer discipline. He was furious with international Heredia for returning late from his vacation, after an absence from the playing fields of eight months. He asked the directors to suspend Heredia's contract; and he was little better pleased with the late arrival from the Congo of Francois M'Pelé. Players who turn up even a few minutes late for training are due to be fined. One of them by an irony was no less a figure than Jean-Michel Larqué, who began the season of course as the club's player-manager!

By contrast Jean Vincent, now the manager of Nantes, has had no fitness problems. He was pleased when his team drew 1-1 in Lisbon with Benfica, and has the pleasing problem of whom to leave out, as represented especially by the two Argentine players, Bargas, a 1974 World Cup stopper, and Trossero.

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Peter Shilton is pictured with Christopher Nell, who was born in the John Player Ward of the Women's Hospital, Nottingham, at 12.06 on New Year's Day. "Make Children Happy", a major national children's organisation, solicited the help of local hospitals, radio stations and newspapers in the Nottingham area to find the first baby born in the early hours of 1979 in Nottinghamshire. The organisation commissioned Thomas Webb to produce a special handmade crystal chalice which was presented to baby Christopher by the Nottingham Forest goalkeeper.

by BRIAN MARSHALL

Shilton owes much to Clough

LIKE a good many other players Peter Shilton has every reason to be indebted to Brian Clough and Peter Taylor for signing him some eighteen months ago.

There is no doubt that Shilton is an excellent goalkeeper who has certainly lived up to his promise of his early years in the game. Whether or not he would be a member of the England side if he had not joined remains a matter of great conjecture.

I am of the opinion that had he remained at Stoke City he would not have been selected for England but on the other hand it was obvious that Stoke, who were on a selling spree at the time, could not retain the services of the 'keeper after disposing of their other prime assets.

A player of Shilton's ability was the top of any shopping list of a club seeking a class goalkeeper. Clough and Taylor quickly spotted their chance and swept into Stoke to pay the Potteries club £270,000.

It was a quick but highly calculated decision on the part of the Nottingham Forest duo and paid a rich dividend in the form of the Football League trophy.

Shilton himself was able to excel in the situation and his stature in the game grew with every match. But the point I am making is that Shilton was not put under the same kind of pressure as he had experienced at Stoke City playing in a side which was struggling.

Not even the world's best goalkeeper, to which title Shilton can now lay claim, could be expected to perform heroics week in and week out. The Nottingham Forest situation was entirely different. He dropped into a confident, attacking side, which by this very fact took a tremendous amount of pressure off the 'keeper.

He found himself being looked upon as a 'keeper, expected to make the breath-taking save. This in turn inspired a great deal more confidence in the Forest side as a whole and consequently Shilton's stock made a dramatic climb where he found himself ousting Ray Clemence from the England side.

Shilton has had his critics in the past. On occasions they were fully justified. He is at his best with the reflex save but has been known to make mistakes with some long range efforts and the occasional cross which from the stands appeared to be quite innocuous.

On the credit side Shilton has always had immense confidence in his own ability and this has been reflected on many occasions. None so than at the present time as he the obvious corner-stone of the Nottingham Forest side.

He has thrived at the City Ground from playing in a very successful side — the first time in his career that he has been accorded this luxury. Typically he has responded with some mature performances which culminated in him being voted the Player of the Year by his fellow professionals last season.

It was an award which Shilton fully deserved for his contribution to the game. He is a model professional and throughout his playing career has never been the cause of any concern on or off the field.

At the age of 21 he was plunged into the glamour and high living associated with a top soccer player. Even at this age he was topping the three figure weekly wage with a smart house in the country.

This new found affluence did not go to his head. He has impressed people within the game with his ability to keep his feet very much on the ground.

Another significant point of his playing career that he has never played for a club outside the Midlands. He began as a schoolboy with his local Leicester City side and turned down the opportunity to link-up with all the top teams, including Manchester United and Arsenal.

This kind of interest could have turned the head of many youngsters but Shilton, who had been attending the training sessions at Filbert Street since he had been 11. There was a time when even the Leicester officials had doubts whether Shilton would make the grade because he was so small. But when he was 14 he suddenly shot up and put on the much needed weight.

The only other crisis in his playing career came in his early days as a full-time professional. He had made his first team debut against Everton at the back-end of the 1965-66 season against Everton but was the under-study to Gordon Banks.

Obviously there was no way Shilton was going to oust Banks who was then at the peak of his form with Leicester City. But strange things happen in soccer and after he had had a talk with manager Matt Gillies he heard that Leicester City were prepared to part with Banks.

It was a financial move on the part of Leicester City who were fully aware that they could command a big fee for Banks while in Shilton they had a young player with outstanding prospects.

Shilton, in a reflective mood, said: "Looking back I feel that it would have been better for Leicester to have let me go instead of Banks. I was something of an unknown quantity to the fans and my first season was nothing to shout about because I suffered an injury which kept me out of the game for two months."

Later Leicester City were relegated and lost in a Cup Final. These events really put the writing on the wall so far as the talented and ambitious Shilton was concerned. Ironically, he moved to Stoke City to take over from Gordon Banks who had been forced to quit playing because of an eye injury sustained in a road accident.

His stay at the Victoria Ground was comparatively short and corresponded with the decline of the club due to financial problems which forced them to sell several key players.

Fortunately for Shilton, Clough and Taylor were waiting in the wings. They have always backed their fancy and in Shilton they could not go far wrong because his pedigree was immaculate.

The BRIAN GLANVILLE column

THE death of that wonderful ancient, Bill M'Cracken, at the age of 95, was very properly and generously commemorated on BBC's Match of the Day that same Saturday evening; one more reason why I hope that London Weekend's potential take-over will be frustrated. There is not much on the box that is consistently good, but Match of the Day, despite the return of Coleman and the occasional solecisms (why have Motson and Davies fallen prey to the ur-Northern locutions of, "He did well, did Brown . . . He's playing well is Smith"?) is an outstandingly competent programme.

Brian Moore, of The Big Match, scored points recently, it is true, from Jimmy Hill, over the question of bad weather and postponements. Hill, on the Saturday night of a bleak day for football, insisted that either every game should be off, or none. Moore, sensibly, resisted such blanket procedures, pointing out that different parts of the country could have widely different weather, and that though the present system of leaving the decision to referees was an imperfect one, it was the least worst one we had.

To this one might add that clubs like Leeds and Arsenal, which have spent money on undersoil heating, and Leicester City, who have their splendid tent of hot air, deserve reward for their enterprise. Why should the slack sluggards who don't bother to do anything useful about their grounds draw the more enterprising clubs down to their level?

Having commended Brian Moore for this, however, I must take issue with him over something else; his endorsement of an infantile piece of behaviour by Barry Hughes, the British manager now working in Holland. Not once but twice in successive weeks we saw Hughes blowing out a Christmas cracker streamer at the turned back of a rival manager, who stood protesting on the line.

He then, with silly glee, turned round to commend himself to the crowd behind the wire, finally — after repeating the dose — saluting as though he'd just scored a goal. Meanwhile, cut to Brian Moore, laughing (I would like to give this usually intelligent man the benefit of the doubt) with what must surely have been simulated amusement. To include Hughes subsequently as a candidate for personality of the month, or whatever it was, seemed to me an abject bit of barrel scraping.

But let us return to the more pleasing subject of M'Cracken, surely a personality, in footballing terms, of the century (and you could choose the 19th or the 20th). He was a great full-back for Newcastle United and Ireland, he was the shrewd manager of the Hull City team which gave powerful Arsenal a fright in the Cup semi-final of 1930, he was an unbelievably long lived scout for, among other clubs, Watford.

Above all, of course, he will be remembered for largely bringing about the change in the offside law, though it was made two years after he retired, in 1925. "Blimey, offside already!" players of opposing teams would say, as their train drew into Newcastle station, and a guard blew his whistle.

Danny Blanchflower was wrong, on the BBC that evening, when he said that M'Cracken never intentionally deployed a policy of offside, that he was merely an attacking full-back whose forays upfield left two instead of three men at the back — three being required to keep an opponent onside. Blanchflower also gave the impression that M'Cracken was something of an innocent, a child of light, when in fact he was a wily old bird, a shrewd, endearing, tricky Ulsterman.

Indeed, his trickiness was the perpetual theme of the marvellous anecdotes he told. I recall one, of his managerial days, when he was chasing a player, and went to watch him — in company with another, rival manager. After the game, both made their way to the station, but then M'Cracken made an excuse, returned — and signed the player!

Many years ago, he and I had tea at the Savoy, where he told me, in his inimitable Ulster-cum-Geordie accent, a splendid, rambling story about his attempt to get Charlie Buchan to play in a services benefit match in Belfast, during the 1914-18 war.

Round and round, in and out, the intricate story rambled, full of inspired parentheses. "I went up to St. James' Park, I played in a practice game, there was a young winger there, I said, give me a run like, I was chasing him, and me muscle pulled." That put Bill himself out of the charity match and made it the more important that he acquired Charlie Buchan, then a Sunderland and England star, a soldier himself, one of the great inside-forwards of his epoch. The trouble was, said Bill, that there was an adjutant who would not, he had heard, give Charlie leave to play.

Then he digressed — as it seemed — on the subject of a hanger-on he'd known as a Newcastle United player, to whom he'd always been cordial, on the prudent grounds that you never knew who'd be what in the future. Round and round went the tale, till we find our hero, Bill, on the platform of Sunderland station. There whom does he meet in military uniform, an officer now, but this same hanger-on, who greets him cordially; "What are you doing up here, Bill?"

"Well, I'm trying to get Charlie Byew-can to play in a charity match in Belfast, but I can't get permission, there's this booger of an adjutant."

"'Well, I wouldn't know about that, Bill,' he says, 'I wouldn't know about that, because I *am* that booger of an adjutant!'"

The end of the anecdote — and it had an end, as all Bill's anecdotes commendably did — is lost to me in the mists of memory; I do know that whoever *did* go over to Belfast to play in the game promptly broke a leg. Meanwhile, a salute to a wonderful old man, whose presence graced the game for so long.

Lord Killanin, the President of the Olympic Committee, is not Avery Brundage. I've no reason to believe he is anything other than a decent, honest man, saddled with an impossible job. Yet his behaviour over the Olympic football tournament has thrown the hypocrisy of his movement into sheer, shameless relief. When the IOC met in Lausanne last January 29 and 30, João Havelange, the controversial President of FIFA, was invited to attend; a last ditch effort by Killanin to persuade FIFA to lift their ban on World Cup players in the 1982 Olympic tournament.

At least the saurian old Brundage stuck more or less to his guns over football, even if the rest of his putrescent movement rotted around him. He didn't like the Olympic soccer tournament, and he detested the prevalence of professionals; not least from the Iron Curtain countries to whose tune Killanin seems to have been dancing.

Don Balon of Barcelona have justifiably accused Killanin of defending "naked professionalism." What, one wonders, has Lord Killanin to say to that? What possible defence can he make of his extraordinary policy? How, in a word, can he manage to square the circle?

THE European cup field still seems mediocre to me. Nottingham Forest have been luckier than Rangers, but Cologne would be wise to take the remarkable John Greig and his Rangers very seriously. Rangers' League form, still more than Cologne's, has little or nothing to do with their excellence in the European Cup, in which John Greig has planned everything with such precocious skill and acumen.

As he himself says, it's enormously difficult to convince his players that they must play an utterly different game in European competition from the forcing, thrusting one they play in Scottish matches. But he appears to be succeeding, and if Derek Johnstone will only play up to his capacities in attack, success is not beyond Rangers.

PLAYER PORTRAIT on Paulo Rossi by Keir Radnedge

JUVE VICE

NOT FAR short of two years ago it became clear to Juventus president Giampiero Boniperti that veteran centre forward Roberto Boninsegna was nearing the end of the road and a replacement was needed.

Fortunately the Italian league was blessed with three lively young spearheads and Juventus, with their power, prestige and wealth, were in the happy position of knowing they could force the transfer of whichever man they decided upon.

The candidates were these: tall Roberto Pruzzo, of Genoe, who had scored 27 goals in his two seasons in *Serie A*; Pietro Paolo Virdis, of Cagliari, whose 18 goals had helped shoot his club back into the top flight; and the second division's top scorer, Paolo Rossi, of Lanerossi Vicenza.

An apparent embarrassment of riches. But as it's turned out it is Juventus who have been embarrassed for their choice resulted in the most appalling blunder of Boniperti's eight years in charge.

Virdis was the man they settled for. Pruzzo went to Roma, and Rossi stayed with Vicenza to secure their place back in the first division.

The outcome is now well known. Rossi has proved himself one of the world's outstanding forwards; Virdis has been a huge failure. And the irony is that at the time Juventus were casting about in the transfer market they already owned a half share in Rossi!

For they'd signed him at 16 from a Florence youth team called Cattolica Virtus, for a mere £10,000.

It was Rossi's father, Vittorio, a textile worker in Prato in Tuscany and a dedicated fan of Fiorentina, who had guided his son's steps thus far — sending him along to a junior club, Ambrosiana of Prato, at 10, then recommending him to Cattolica Virtus.

At 15 a whisper about the boy's talent for getting goals from inside right reached the ears of Juventus and general manager Italo Allodi travelled down to Coverciano, the FIGC training headquarters near Florence, to see the boy for himself.

No hestitation. Juventus signed him up — and set off a chain of events which almost forced Rossi to give up the game long before his eventual triumph.

Rossi explained later: "I was three years with Juventus, in the *primavera* (youth section). But then I started getting pains in my knees and I had to have three operations. The surgeons took out the two cartilages in my left knee and one from my right.

"I was only 17 then and, of course, I became afraid I'd have to give up. That's why I never stopped my accountancy studies. I don't think they had much confidence that I'd be much use with only one cartilage and I didn't get a first team game, so in October 1975 they loaned me to Como.

"They were in the first division, too, but I played only half a dozen games even though Juventus were virtually paying them to play me. At the end of the year Como shoved me back. I felt a terrible failure. Only my father still believed in me but something made me determined to carry on.

"There was no place for me at Juventus so they sold a half share in me to Lanerossi Vicenza, who were in the second division.

"And this was where I struck lucky, in finding a coach such as Gian Battista Fabbri. He helped me understand what an opportunity I had and if I have achieved anything in football since I owe it all to him. He gave me confidence and a regular place in the team. That was more than I'd ever come near in all my time with Juventus."

Fabbri it was, who decided that despite his short, light build Rossi would be better used as a centre forward than inside or outside right.

Rossi was delighted to make the switch: "It means you get a better chance of scoring, and for me getting goals is a *raison d'etre*."

Noted

We've already noted that he top-scored with 21 goals in his first season with Vicenza in 1976–77. Naturally, president Giuseppe Farina desperately wanted to hold on to Rossi while his club re-established themselves in the top deck, but obviously if Juventus had determined to bring Rossi back to Turin they could have forced the issue.

When they decided to buy Virdis instead Farina breathed a sigh of relief. At least with Rossi part-owned by Juventus no other major club would try to lure him away. The stage was set for the Prato boy's dramatic entry into Italian football legend.

It was a month before he found his scoring touch in *Serie A*, and then it brought only a penalty goal in a defeat by Milan. But that was enough to give Rossi the confidence he needed. In November he hit his first hat-trick in a 4-3 win over Roma and his all-round skill earned his debut for Italy in a 1-0 win over Belgium in Liege the following month.

In January he made life tough for the experienced Migueli in a 2-1 defeat by Spain in Madrid, and then came the game "for which I've been waiting for the past three years."

It was Vicenza at home to Juventus. Already rumours were circulating that Juve would reclaim Rossi at the season's end. Virdis had been a disaster. First he had committed the unheard-of sin of refusing to be transferred, then, after arriving in Turin, he had suffered a debilitating series of injuries and illnesses.

The Press were beginning talk of a crisis at Juventus, but Rossi wasn't going to add fuel to that fire, even if he might have been excused doing so.

"If Juventus are going through a crisis," he said after the 0-0 draw, "I'd hate to have to play against them when they're supposed to be in form."

Apart from that rare occasion, Rossi was regularly picking up goals, including a scorching volley to beat his father's favourites, Fiorentina, in Florence, which Rossi described later as the best of his career.

The Vicenza fans were overjoyed. Not since the days of Luis Vinicio in the early 1960s had they been able to celebrate such a player. Some even clubbed together to have a marble bust of Rossi sculpted and asked Farina to install it outside the club offices. It seemed he was in with a real chance of beating the record of 28 goals set by Enrico Guaita of Roma for a 16-team league back in 1934–35.

In fact he fell four short. But two goals against Perugia in his last home game of the season were enough to lift his total to 24 (including seven penalties) and bring him the top scorer's award, a clear nine goals in advance of his nearest challenger, Napoli's Beppe Savoldi.

The season was barely over when Juventus moved in, keen to rectify their mistake of a year before, even though they knew that even a half share in Rossi had increased alarmly in cost.

Farina studied the finances of his small-time provincial club. There seemed no way he could withstand Juventus — and the cash for Rossi *would* help team building. But what would Vicenza be without Rossi? Farina decided that if he couldn't keep Rossi, then he, too, should step down and admit defeat.

Before he'd had time to make an official announcement there was an outcry from the fans. Encouraged, Farina stepped back from the brink and announced that he intended holding on to Rossi.

Juventus were furious and invoked the disputes procedure under the terms of which, if two clubs cannot agree on a deal, they both submit secret bids to the league

VENTUS LOSS IS ICENZA'S GAIN

and whoever is found to have bid the highest lands the player.

Juventus — bidding remember for a *half-share* in Rossi — offered £700,000; Vicenza bid a staggering £1.7 million — establishing Rossi's full market value at £3.5 million!

Rossi was to stay with Vicenza and now he was all theirs!

Farina had virtually mortgaged the club up to the hilt to guarantee Juventus the money, and even Rossi was taken by surprise.

"I never imagined Vicenza would offer so much for me," he said. "But on the other hand I'm not sure that they're throwing away money as people say. Farina must reckon he can get it back through gate receipts and selling players. Which players? Well, me, I suppose, eventually — when I've earned Vicenza the interest!"

But while that storm raged around his head, Rossi had other more pressing commitments in mind: the World Cup.

Though he had played against Belgium and Spain it was Torino's Francesco Graziani who appeared the likely *Assurri* centre forward in Argentina, despite the weight of public opinion behind Rossi.

Shortly before flying to Buenos Aires, Rossi was asked how he gauged Italy's prospects and how he felt he compared with his fellow strikers.

"We've got two problems — an aggressive Press and a tough first round. But I think we can do well away from the pressure of our fans. As for myself, well . . . Bettega is better in the air but I am faster. And though I'm not as strong as Graziani I'm much quicker with the ball at my feet. My time will come."

It did — sooner than he expected.

In Buenos Aires Italy played one last warm-up, against a local side, Deportivo Italiana, in the Boca Juniors' Bombonera stadium. Graziani led the attack in the first half, but it was only after his substitution with Rossi at the interval that the Italian attack sparked into life and Bettega grabbed the winner.

Manager Enzo Bearzot took due note and it was Rossi who led the attack throughout the finals, in which Italy finished fourth after blowing up in the second round. Rossi scored three times — against France, Hungary and Austria — and was among the foremost candidates for the "World XIs" which are bandied about as the finals come to a close.

One surprise for Rossi was the comparatively gentle nature of most games. "Italian league defences are much tougher than anything we met in the World Cup — until we played West Germany," he said later. "They certainly didn't stand on ceremony, there was a lot of kicking going on."

Rossi, as the sharp, mobile apex of the attack, was best qualified to judge. And the treatment he received didn't go unnoticed elsewhere. Vicenza president Farina was scathing about the role demanded by Rossi by Bearzot.

"Bearzot is ruining the player, abandoning him too far forward without enough support. He doesn't have the physique to stand much more of that."

In past World Cups such an outburst could have rocked the Italian campaign. But Rossi calmly defused the situation, saying: "I don't understand why Farina said these things. Every game is different. You can't play against Argentina and West Germany the way you play against France and Hungary. Every game is different and demands different tactics. The national team is not Vicenza."

Rossi was one of the few Italian players still to have much running left in them by the end of the 2-1 defeat by Brazil in the third place match.

Where did Italy slip up? "We forwards missed a lot of chances, perhaps because of a lack of confidence. When we went out to Argentina everyone expected to see us coming home pretty quickly. Instead we could have won . . . for myself though, the best moment was in the first game, with the equaliser against France. It was so vital because we *had* to win and after we'd got over the shock of their goal in the first minute and I'd got our equaliser . . . we did just that."

Home from the World Cup and Rossi was looking forward to a couple of weeks' holiday with his girl friend Simonetta, touring round his old home town in his new red BMW. After all, he'd earned a rest, for he had spent an incredible tiring season.

Not only had he been playing week in, week out, for Vicenza, with occasional call-ups for the Italian full, B and under-21 sides, he had also been undergoing his national service — which meant travelling from Vicenza to Rome and back each week and playing many games in army colours.

His total mileage would have sent him twice round the world and he wasn't so far off achieving that in fact, playing in Belgium, Spain, England — in the European under-21 competition when Italy lost 2-1 in a Maine Road quarter-final — Portugal, Tunisia and, of course, Argentina.

His season looked like this:

	Played	Goals
League	30	24
Cup	4	2
Friendlies	8	11
Italy	9	3
B Intl	1	—
Military	22	10
Total	80	51

But he found no privacy on his return.

"I got back to Prato dead tired. I thought I could get some rest at least. But the same evening I had a phone call to say there was a big official reception in Rome and I was expected to be there. I said I was tired and couldn't it wait? The next thing I knew there were two *carabinieri* at the door saying the reception was too important to be altered but they would travel as far as Rome with me.

"What could I do? Then I got worried that as soon as I got to Rome I would get lost because I don't know the place. But when we got to the end of the *autostrada* there was a big police escort waiting to take me all the way.

"If I had accepted all the invitations that rained in since the World Cup Vicenza would have sacked me because I wouldn't have had time to attend training."

Adulation

How Juventus officials must have squirmed as the adulation swept Rossi along! He became a walking billboard. Coco-Cola and Pony were just two of the corporations who signed him up.

All over Italy sports clubs were nominating him for one award after another.

Naturally enough Rossi's private life suffered. And with fame there is always a threat from the envious. Rossi was the butt of ill-founded rumours about his private life and when he finally returned to start pre-season training with Vicenza he was clearly totally drained.

At pre-season friendlies he was mobbed by fans and Vicenza only heaped coals on the fire when they placed a £3.5 million insurance cover on his head. The annual premium demanded by the insurers — working through the brokerage of ex-Italy captain Giacinto Facchetti — was £3,000.

Rossi was in no shape to begin a new season and it was strange how fate took a hand. Vicenza travelled to Prague to face Dukla in the first round of the UEFA Cup and Rossi was promptly hammered to the ground by Ludek Macela. The bruising to his right knee — the one with the remaining cartilage — meant two weeks in plaster and more than a month out of action.

Though Farina screamed blue murder about referees who don't give skilled players protection, the injury was for Rossi a blessing in disguise.

"It's given me a chance to get some rest, recuperate, find new energy and new enthusiasm," he admitted as the league

● *Continued on page 34*

MOONEY FINDS HIS GOAL IN NORWAY

by ERIC BROWN

SUPPORTERS of Norwegian club Haugar expect three Englishmen to bring them further success when the new season begins in April.

Former Millwall colleagues Dennis Burnett and Barry Salvage teamed up with ex-Orient striker Dean Mooney to win promotion for the club last season and their new target is to sweep through the second division at the first attempt.

Haugar are the first Norwegian club to benefit from importing players but the achievements of their "three wise men" could prompt an exodus from England compareable with the dollar-conscious 'gold rush' to America.

Rewards are high in a country with only 125,000 part-time players. Mooney, for example, earns more than any player at Brisbane Road and believes he could not get a better salary outside the English first division. "There is only one type of freeze you have to worry about and that doesn't hit your pay packet as in England," he reflected.

Apart from playing, Mooney also coaches some of the junior sides at a club with more than 30 teams. He lives in a modern, furnished, three bedroom wooden house near the ground and drives a sports car — both provided by the club.

People

"The treatment I have been given really surprised me. The Norwegians know how to look after people," said Mooney. "I wasn't sure at first about making the move to Norway but I didn't have a club at the time the offer came so I decided to give it a try. It's the best move I've ever made."

Mooney had more than his share of setbacks in England. A serious leg injury interrupted his progress as a promising youngster at Queens Park Rangers and after a long lay-off he was allowed to join Orient.

He fought his way into the first team against West Bromwich Albion four years ago but after a run of 16 games in the 1976-77 season a double dispute with manager George Petchey over pay and tactics brought his Orient days to an abrupt end.

Mooney drifted into the Isthmian League with Walthamstow Avenue. Twelve goals in eight games failed to impress a new manager there and he suffered again through a switch of tactics. Dropped and transfer listed by Avenue, Mooney had considered giving up the game until an agent rang with the Norwegian offer.

Now he is a star. Mooney hit 24 goals in 20 games for Haugar last season and few players in the Norwegian League bettered that total. Frequent television appearances turned him into a celebrity and he is often recognised by many of the 30,000 citizens of Haugesund eager to shake hands and discuss the next match.

Manager Burnett and winger Salvage have played an equally important role in turning attention from herring fishing to football in Haugesund. Burnett, veteran of nearly 400 games for West Ham, Millwall and Hull, reversed the usual defensive trend in Norway and ordered his team to attack. Salvage called on his experience with Fulham, Millwall, QPR and Brentford to provide the crosses and the goals flowed for Mooney and local boy Tor Nielsen so consistently that Haugar broke the divisional scoring record with 60 goals.

Custom

"We took the opposition by surprise," said Mooney, who at 6 foot 1 inch and more than 12 stones is custom built for beating defenders in the air. "It may be an old fashioned idea in England but it was entirely new to the Norwegians. By the time they worked it out we had virtually won the league."

There was no stopping Haugar and they won a promotion play-off match against a team from Bergen with Mooney getting the inevitable headed goal. "We will be playing against different teams this season so everyone is expecting the same tactics to carry on working," he said. "It would be nice to think they will but when you play at a higher level you expect the preparations to be more thorough."

When the new season gets underway the trickle of coaches eager to study Haugar's 'English method' will mushroom and it is not difficult to forsee many of them trying to copy it.

System

But where will they get the players? If Norwegians cannot adapt to the system — and few of them are naturally good headers of the ball — there will inevitably be more imports. The much discussed proposal to follow the Danes and go fully professional could open the floodgates for foreign players if it is introduced.

Although mixed views exist on foreign players, a controlled entry of experienced men in Norway could only benefit the development of the sport.

Norway failed to win any of seven internationals last year while defeats by Austria and Scotland and a draw with Belgium merely confirmed their status as European championship also-rans.

The introduction of more foreign players like the English trio would surely encourage Norwegians like Haugar's Nielsen to stay at home and learn instead of gaining experience overseas. And that could ultimately improve a national team with just one victory in the last 13 internationals.

on the ball

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BRAZIL

by Claudio Kuck
of 'O Globo'

Football on Copacabana still goes on

SUMMER in Rio means only going to the beach and waiting for the Carnival in February.

Marascaña is closed as well as all the other big Brazilian stadia. But though the players are on holiday the football didn't stop. If somebody wants to watch a good match, with skilful players and good technique it's necessary only to go to Copacabana, Ipanema or Lebion Beach.

Probably Paulo Cesar, Zico, Falacao, Toninho and other big stars will be there. For while Brazilian players on holiday enjoy themselves and forget the problems of professional soccer, they play football on the sand . . .

You don't have to pay to watch either and though it's not easy to play on hot sand it's an unforgettable spectacle to see masters of ball control like Paulo Cesar, moving freely around Leblon Beach.

But it's not only the beaches that see good football in Brazil nowadays. There have also been several under 21 tournaments with 500 young players taking part in the first Campeonato Brasileiro de Selecoes Juvenis (First Brazilian Under 21 Championship).

Some 21 teams from all over Brazil entered and several new stars were being born.

At the same time the 11th Under 21 Sao Paulo Cup with 16 teams began. In 1977, Internacional won this tournament, which in past years revealed new stars like Caçapava, Falcão, Toninho Cerezzo and many others.

The Brazilians are really keen on discovering new talent. The national under-21 team played in Uruguay in the South American under-21 championship and also plan several matches in Europe in April.

Some players have done so well that Claudio Coutinho (Brazilian manager) and Heleno Nunes (CBD Chairman) warned they will be of special value in the 1982 World Cup.

THE ELEVEN BEST

To build a new strong national team is the target now in Brazil and it's not a surprise that when journalists chose the 11 best players of 1978 only four of them had played in Argentina.

The magazine "Manchete Esportiva" named this side: Leao (Vasco), Zé Maria (Corinthians), Oscar (Ponte Preta), Amaral (Corinthians), Miranda (Guarani), Paulo Cesar Carpeggiani (Flamengo), Falcão (Internacional), Zenon (Guarani), Careca (Guarani), Zico (Flamengo), Palhinha (Corinthians).

You can see that only Leao, Oscar, Amaral and Zico played in the last World Cup.

Careca (18 years old) was chosen as best newcomer of the year and Paulo Cesar Carpeggiani the best of them all. Zenon is another new star. He is very good at free-kicks, with long passes and recalls the magnificent Gerson.

At last a new left back appeared to replace the blond Marinho who is playing for New York Cosmos now. He's Miranda, a 20-year-old black from Guarani. He is strong, fast and scores goals.

Carpeggiani is playing as well with Flamengo as he used to some years ago for Internacional alongside Falcão. Everybody dreams of Falcão and Carpeggiani playing together again for Brazil!

Manager of the year was Carlos Alberto Silva. He worked very hard, promoted some young players and succeeded in winning the Brazilian Championship with the little Guarani, something like Brian Clough did with Nottingham Forest in England.

A LOT OF GOSSIP

Most of the State Championships are over and only those in Sao Paulo and Minas Gerais went on longer. Flamengo won in Rio, Bahia in Bahia, Santa Cruz in Pernambuco and Coritiba in Paraná.

Internacional won in Rio Grande do Sul beating Gremio 2-1 in the final with veteran right-winger Valdomiro scoring twice. Inter are again one of the best Brazilian sides with the most powerful midfield in the country: Caçapava (or Jair), Batista and Falcão.

Recently there has been a lot of gossip about the transfer market. Will Ponte Preta sell Oscar to Corinthians? Will the Argentinian Mastrangelo (Boca Juniors) play for Flamengo? Will Botafogo sign Cacapava (Internacional) and Inter sign Osmar (Botafogo)? Can Fluminense sell Carlos Alberto Pintinho? Will Dirceu, now having problems with his new Mexican club America, go to New York Cosmos or come back and play for Gremio? Will World Cup midfielder Batista stay at Internacional?

But three coaches signed with new teams. Orlando Fantoni has switched from Vasco da Gama to Gremio, veteran and former Brazil manager Osvaldo Brandao signed with Portuguesa and Carlos Froner (ex-Gremio, ex-Flamengo, ex-Caxias) signed with Vasco. Fantoni will receive £48,000 for a one year contract, almost the same money that Coutinho will receive in Flamengo. Coaches' earnings are going up every year.

At the same time, Botafogo are still trying to sell Paulo Cesar and Fluminense are fighting to receive the money for Rivelino from Al-Helal of Saudia Arabia. A good thing in Brazil was the return of Serginho, the top scorer of Sao Paulo, who knocked out a linesman and was suspended for 14 months just before the World Cup. He couldn't play in Argentiana but now, after a second trial, is allowed to play again.

MANGA, LIKE WINE, OLDER AND BETTER . . .

As we said there is a lot of effort being made to discover new players and talents. But year after year, an old name remains in the headlines: Manga. The 43-year-old received almost the same number of votes as Leao, for the best goal keeper of 1978 award. Manga (35 caps for Brazil) has just won the Parana championship for Coritiba, saving two penalties in the final.

Everybody is saying that he is the Brazilian version of the famous Spaniard Ricardo Zamora.

Manga played in Uruguay for several years, returning to Brazil in 1976, when he was Brazilian champion with Internacional, and also receiving the goalkeeper's award that year.

He was even recalled to play for Brazil. Recently he said: "I played only in one World Cup, in England in 1966. But now I am in a very good shape and with a lot of experience. In 1982 I will be only 47. I am sure I can and I will play in Spain. I feel so young . . ."

Amaral of Brazil.

Sir Stanley is wrong . . . talking is part of soccer

by ERIC BATTY

JUST like other readers of *World Soccer* I look forward to my monthly copy, for although I receive a string of foreign papers and magazines, I invariably find little items of interest that have slipped through the net. I also find out what the other contributors have been up to and what games they have seen, which is often of interest.

In the February edition, Leslie Vernon's interview with Sir Stanley Rous I found interesting, and one section jumped out and smacked me right between the eyes!

Quoting Sir Stanley, Leslie wrote: "And there is too much shouting amongst the players in English football. When a player is in possession, he is shouted at by five of his team-mates — this must be confusing, breaking his concentration."

I know from his career background, of course, that although Sir Stanley did many things in his lifetime in football, he never coached or managed, and he (and Leslie perhaps), might be interested to know that in conversation with Cyril Lea, the coach of Ipswich Town, recently, he told me something that I already knew only too well, from personal experience . . . "It is difficult to get many players to talk in the game!"

I remember only too well from my own playing days, before coaching (good coaching, that is) became in vogue. I used to come off the pitch with a sore throat — but it was rare that anyone would help me by 'talking'.

Right from the start, I should emphasise that there is a world of difference between the type of player who gets his head down when things go wrong and moans and groans to his colleagues about getting bad balls.

A 'rucker' as I used to describe such players, is no good to man or beast. But constructive talking, giving good advice, is an essential part of the game and I have long felt that although *talking* amongst the players AND coaching from the line are not specifically mentioned in the Laws 'some' referees and legislators do not appreciate that they are a part of the game.

At professional level I have occasionally seen a referee approach the substitutes' bench and have words with the manager, coach or a sub, but this happens so rarely at top level that I can only assume they have been guilty of using foul language.

For make no mistake, even the Brian Cloughs of this world prefer to sit on the bench so that they can talk to their players from the line.

There does come a time when a coach has been working well with one set of players, when his talking ceases to be needed. But that point is reached only when the players have been well versed in the good habits the coach wants from them *and when the players are talking well themselves.*

At that point the coach can just as well go and sit in the stand and get a better overall view of the match, because his work has been done in training and his most intelligent and advanced players are doing all the necessary talking for him.

Perhaps if Sir Stanley reads this, he might learn that in a good team of intelligent players it will not be confusing to have five or even six colleagues calling to him in possession. Because they will all be telling him the same thing!

Cyril Lea wants his players to 'talk' for the same reason that Ron Greenwood wants his players to talk to each other, and I can well remember Ron, in his days at West Ham telling me "that every player should 'boss' those around him."

To take another, very profound quote, this time from Rinus Michels, he produced a real gem for me when he was boss of Barcelona . . . "To play without your eyes in your mouth, is like a desert!"

Example

All the good coaches in the game want their players to boss each other when they are in possession — and sometimes even off the ball. All the good coaching books, for example, even refer to goalkeepers having to watch out for opponents making runs on the blind side of defenders, and to call and tell their team-mates what is going on.

When I was coaching, my last words to the players before they left the dressing room were invariably . . . "let's have plenty of *bunny*."

Fortunately, the referees that we had in our league were not top class in the sense that they were FIFA officials or even on the Football League list, but most of them had spent time on the line in the big time, and knew that talking amongst the players, and even coaching from the line, were an accepted and integral part of the game. So when I shouted they simply accepted it.

The odd one would come across to me now and again, perhaps because a player amongst the opposition realised how much good I was doing and complained about it, or maybe because a young, inexperienced and over-zealous linesman drew his attention to it. But though I shouted myself hoarse on occasions, I was never officially brought to answer for coaching from the line in more than ten years.

The only time when we did get in trouble over 'bunny' amongst the players was an occasion when we went to Holland to take part in an international tournament.

In the first match the obviously inexperienced referee began to give a string of free kicks against my team 'for shouting', and though he couldn't speak English he indicated by placing one finger over his lips that he was in fact penalising them for talking to each other.

Tournament

My players were going crazy and several of them threatened to walk off the pitch, and at that time I felt I had to do something for the game was becoming a farce. So I immediately sought out the organiser of the tournament and explained the problem to him — that my players had been coached to talk and could not play any other way . . . and that was ruining the game, and if something wasn't done quick I would have a revolution on my hands.

Fortunately the organiser in chief accepted the situation and called the referee over. From there on order was restored and the referee confined himself to seeing that the game was played within the spirit of the Laws and forget about his 'talking' mania.

This reminds me of my father who, many years ago, refused to come and watch me play . . . because I shouted too much!

Let me know when you've learned to play the game properly and I'll start coming again, he used to say. Now perhaps his ideas used to work in 1915 or 1920, when, he explained, if you wanted the ball, you used to clap your hands and if you were in a good position, the man with the ball would give it to you.

But even in my time, the game had got a lot faster, though not as fast as it is today, and another thing — many of the most skilful players do not want to part with the ball, but want to dribble, and wouldn't give you the ball if you wore the skin off your palms clapping.

Being a defender, I always had a good view of the play in front of me, and just naturally I

England manager Ron Greenwood with winger Steve Coppell.

used to 'bunny'. At times, for example, if I had possession, and someone sprinted at me from out of my field of vision, I would get dispossessed by an opponent. To put it politely I would enquire of my team-mates why they had not told me he was coming — words to that effect that is but phrased far more strongly.

I used to tell them such things, but by and large most of the players in my time used to believe in the principle . . . "you play your game and I'll play mine." They did not want my advice to pass, rather than hang on to the ball, and they certainly didn't help me much when I won the ball.

Full-scale

Modern coaching has changed all that, good coaching that is, and I even found when I was coaching that players who met my side over a period would begin to copy mine and make basic calls like 'man-on' when appropriate.

At professional level where they have time to stage full-scale practice matches it is common place for the coach to be on the pitch, as well as an unofficial referee, just an assistant with a whistle. The coach can then talk to the players all the time, telling them where they ought to be looking, where they ought to be thinking of positioning themselves and where they should look for a colleague when in possession.

Apart from basics like hold, turn, man-on, time, the best players can offer good advice by surveying the pitch overall and offering advice about where the ball should be played.

As Michels said, it's a desert if the players don't 'bunny', and if as spectators at top-class matches you do not realise how much bunny goes on at a professional game, this is only because the crowd is making so much noise that the talk amongst the players is swamped by the background roar.

Opposition

Only once was I fortunate enough to be able to arrange an unofficial pre-season friendly on the basis that I could walk on the pitch and talk to my players. This because the coach of the opposition wanted to do the same. I remember that day clearly because the game was staged on a particular Sunday morning, the Sunday in 1965 following the World Cup final.

A journalist friend of mine from Finland was staying on for a few days after the World Cup, and hearing that my team had a game he came to watch. He told me after the game that one of my side's goals was as good as anything he had seen in the World Cup, and I remember it well because by talking very fast, I had managed to get five or six players to put together a really very good move that brought a goal.

It involved a player out wide on the left dropping deep; a midfield player breaking down the left into the space thus made, and good long ball from the full back 'over the top' . . . and I got them all to do it by bunny.

The professionals work at that kind of thing every day of the week and, as I have already stated, talking amongst the players is not specifically against any of the Laws of the game, and neither is coaching from the line. Fortunately most referees turn a blind eye to both, but clearly, if Sir Stanley had his way, both would be completely outlawed.

Conduct

If a referee does penalise players or coaches it is only under the general heading of ungentlemanly conduct — which it could be if bad language is used. But in my view the game would deteriorate very rapidly if both were outlawed, and I would go so far the other way as to urge legislators to add to their interpretations of the Laws with something that makes both forms of 'talking' clearly legal.

They form a vital part of the game between them, talking and coaching from the line, and particularly at top level, everyone is equally guilty if it really is against the Laws of the game. But because they are so widespread and accepted by all the professionals, it could do damage to the game if anyone really tried to cut them out. They are in fact an integral part of the game as it is played in 1979.

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Football stays in Olyn
name your top team .
. . . PAOK 'earn' uniq

FOOTBALL remains a part of the Olympic programme in Moscow next year after marathon talks in Lausanne between FIFA president Joao Havelange and the International Olympic Committee.

But the IOC made it clear after the meeting that their capitulation on FIFA's terms was made only under protest.

The Olympic soccer tournament is that part of the four-yearly Games in which the face of Shamateurism is most plainly to be seen. And it was a desire to improve this image that led the 1978 FIFA Congress in Buenos Aires to decide that European and South American players who had taken any part in a World Cup should be barred from the Games.

The IOC decided that this cut directly across their rules of non-discrimination and eligibility and told FIFA to think again. Havelange replied that only a FIFA Congress could alter a Congress decision and the next wasn't for another four years.

If the IOC didn't like the way FIFA ran its affairs, then FIFA would pull football out of the Olympics.

The result was the nine-hour Lausanne summit and the IOC's reluctant acceptance of a *fait accompli* "because plans for preliminary matches are well advanced."

There are two opinions about Olympic soccer. Some feel that as far as most participants are concerned the amateurism is non-existent and the charade ought to be put down quietly. Others reckon that since a large part of the rest of the Games are equally as professional, there's no way soccer should feel guilty about taking part.

In that case FIFA might consider — at their next Congress — whether there's any point tinkering with Olympic eligibility. Didn't the soccer section have much greater standing when the likes of Hungary, Yugoslavia and Russia were competing with their best players?

THE ARGENTINE weekly *El Grafico* have been pushing up their postal bills recently by asking various journalists, players and officials round the world to name the three greatest club sides of all time.

I tried the same question out on the sports desk staff of a London national newspaper and found as many different permutations as people. Top of the list in most cases came Real Madrid (1956-60) but Arsenal (1930s) as well as Tottenham (1959 *and* 1961) got their fair share of votes.

The general opinion was that naming one was fairly easy, or naming 10, but picking out three was decidely awkward.

My choice for *El Grafico* was 1 Real Madrid, 2 Santos 1961-3, 3 Ajax 1971-3. I toyed with putting Honved of the early 1950s in there somewhere, but finally settled for the teams I know best.

The *El Grafico* survey, which continues from week to week, is run mainly among South Americans and at the time of writing the total first place votes are: Santos 35, Real Madrid 20, Internazionale (1964-6) 9, River Plate (1942-45) 8, Ajax 5, Honved 4.

Of course you can't help some sort of bias creeping in, but Hugo Gambini of the Argentine magazine *Redaccion* was going a bit far with his top three — Velez Sarsfield 1953, Velez Sarsfield 1968, Velez Sarsfield 1971!

DESPITE the Russians' frequent appearance of despising any sort of star cult, the usual Team of the Year was announced recently and it was interesting to note that 1978's No 1 player, Ramas Shengelia of Dynamo Tbilisi, was only among the reserves.

The team: Gogia (Tbilisi), Bubnov (Dynamo Moscow), Konkov (Kiev), Machovikov (Dynamo Moscow) – Berezhnoi (Kiev), Maichadze (Tbilisi), Bessonov (Kiev) – Gutsayev, Kipiani (both Tbilisi), Blokhin (Kiev).

The reason Shengelia missed out of course was because Oleg Blokhin is still the best left-side striker in Russia and one of the most dangerous in Europe.

Interesting to note the presence of five Tbilisi men in the XI. Judging by the latest reports plenty of strings will be pulled behind the scenes next season to give them a good chance in the Champions' Cup, where the Russians have yet to make much impression.

ALBERTO TARANTINI'S signature at the foot of a three-year contract with Birmingham was not far removed in time from a weighty criticism of the Argentine World Cup defender in the *Daily Mail* by Jeff Powell.

Powell wrote that Tarantini's disastrous display in a league game against Arsenal only proved what a marvellous coach Cesar Menotti is, to have turned such a mediocre player into a national hero back in South America.

Soon after, John Sadler wrote in *The Sun* that he was *pleased* to see that the English clubs who had imported foreigners were unlikely to pick up any of the prizes at the season's end.

Tarantini, Ricardo Villa, Kazimierz Deyna have not set the league alight. Ivan Golac at Southampton and Alex Sabella at Sheffield United have fared better and Arnold Muhren (Ipswich) and Osvaldo Ardiles (Tottenham) have proved well worth watching.

It all goes to prove the dangers of buying abroad in what appears a cut-price market when you consider English transfer fees. A foreign name is no guarantee of success, it's down to adaptability and character and these aren't always so apparent from the touchline.

A case in point is Avi Cohen, of Maccabi Tel-Aviv, who stands an outside chance of becoming Liverpool's first foreigner. The Israelis don't want him to go because they need his attacking ingenuity from sweeper in their tough Oympic qualifying ties with Spain, Holland and Belgium.

He's a good player, no doubt. But how much do Liverpool know about his ability to settle down to the English way of life?

OVE KINDVALL was an outstanding centre forward for Sweden in the 1970 World Cup in Mexico and, at the same time, in European club competitions for Feyenoord of Rotterdam.

It was his goals which helped them become the first Dutch club to lift the Champions Cup and world club cup. But it wasn't long before he was on his way home to Gothenburg.

He ended his playing career last season, at 35. He was still as skilful as ever, but naturally a little slower, drifting into the game for IFK as and when he felt the urge, and serving some beautifully weighted passes for centre forward Ralf Edstroem.

Not that it did IFK that much good for they again missed out on the honours. But it is to Kindvall that they are looking for the long-awaited surge forward. Not as a player any more for he has now taken over as general manager, to turn the club ever more surely towards a greater professionalism — in approach at least, if not money for the time being.

Sweden's great players have not often shown a major aptitude for management. Nils Liedholm in Italy and Orvar Bergmark at home are about the only two exceptions who come to mind.

They say there's never two without three, so why not Kindvall? He certainly has had the experience.

EX-ENGLAND manager Don Revie is taking the Football Association to court over the 10-year ban imposed in December for allegedly bringing the game into disrepute.

The matter centred on the way in which Revie quit the England job in the summer of 1977 to take up a lucrative post as overlord of football in the United Arab Emirates.

When Revie appeared before the FA he also faced an accusation about alleged dealings with Alan Ball. However this matter was left to one side because of a libel writ issued by Revie against allegations in the *Daily Mirror*.

A spokesman for Revie's Leeds' solicitors described the 10-year ban as 'savage.' Revie has a consultancy

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contract with his old Leeds club which is due to come into effect on January 1, 1980.

THE F.A. have taken to producing some useful dossiers of background information for journalists attending Wembley internationals. I like the sense of humour of whoever made up the Press kit for the England-Northern Ireland European championship tie.

Included to help journalists were not only details of players' ages, caps and clubs, etc, but a copy of the Laws of the Game. Was that a hint?

WHILE snow and ice have caused fixture confusion in Belgium, Holland, Britain and West Germany a more contentious matter has led to a minor hiccup in Greece.

During a recent league match between PAOK and Ethnikos, the latter scored while six PAOK players were still celebrating a goal of their own in the Ethnikos half! After protests by PAOK the FA ordered the game — which finished 2-2 — to be played again.

GERD MULLER could be following the path of Franz Beckenbauer to America. Muller and Beckenbauer were colleagues with Bayern Munich and the German national side, sharing World Cup and European Cup honours. Muller it was who scored the winning goal against Holland in the 1974 World Cup Final.

His amazing record in club and international matches seems unlikely to be beaten. Muller retired from international football after the '74 victory and had said this would be his last *Bundesliga* season. Latest reports suggests that he may not even wait that long. He wants to leave immediately and there are no shortage of American clubs who would be interested.

The price of players, including some very ordinary ones, on the international market, is ridiculous. Trevor Francis broke through the £1 million barrier in England and Charlton Athletic valued their striker, Mike Flanagan, at almost £700,000. Although highly rated in America last year with the New England Teamen — he was top NASL scorer with 30 goals — Flanagan's record in England is nothing special.

Flanagan at 25 years of age is obviously a better long term prospect than Muller, who is 33. But as players there is no comparison between the two and Muller, with his golden scoring touch, would be a big asset to the NASL.

Alberto Tarantini of Birmingham City, a new recruit to the Football League this season.

IPSWICH TOWN, FA Cup winners in England last season, have signed a second Dutch player in Frans Thijssen. Ipswich paid Twente Enschede £200,000 for the 27 year old international and he will be eligible to play in the European Cup Winners Cup Final, should Ipswich get that far.

Thijssen will replace Brian Talbot, who was transferred to Arsenal for over £400,000. Arie Muhren, signed by Ipswich in the close season, says he rates Thijssen a more skilful player than Talbot and the two should make a useful impact at Portman Road.

Names in the news . . .

NAMES IN THE NEWS . . . MIGUEL ANGEL BRINDISI, Argentina's 1974 World Cup schemer now with Las Palmas, is the target for Huracan . . . LAJOS BAROTI, former Hungarian World Cup manager, has taken over SSW Innsbruck — Hans Eignestiller has gone back to coaching the youth teams . . . JEAN-MARIE PFAFF, goalkeeper of Belgian league leaders and Cup-winners' Cup Quarter finalists Beveren, is Footballer of the Year, ahead of Rene Vandereycken (Brugge), and Rob Rensenbrink and Arie Haan (both Anderlecht) . . . JOSE TEIXEIRA of Sao Paulo is to be assistant to reconfirmed Brazil manager Claudio Coutinho . . . PEDRO GARCIA, manager of the Chilean youth team, was arrested after allegations that passport details of two of his players for the South American youth championship had been altered . . . ANTONIO MOYANO REINA, Madrid-born coach of Costa Rica runners-up Municipal Puntarenas, has taken over the national team . . . ZDENEK NEHODA is Czechoslovakia's Footballer of the Year, ahead of Dukla colleague Josef Barmos and Slovan's Marian Masny — Dukla's Miroslav Gajdusek was fourth . . . RAMON HEREDIA, Argentina's 1974 midfielder and formerly with Atletico Madrid, has been sacked by Paris Saint-Germain . . . Monaco's JEAN PETIT is Footballer of the Year in France . . . MICHEL PLATINI made his return after a broken ankle in Nancy's short winter break tour of Mexico, playing half an hour in a 4-1 defeat by Atlante . . . TOM LUND, often rated Norway's greatest-ever footballer, has turned down an offer from Sunderland . . . ROBERTO RIVELINO is already investing some of his earnings from Saudi Arabia back in Brazil — appropriately in a chain of petrol stations . . . JOSE CAMACHO, hapless Real Madrid defender out for more than a year, has been advised to undergo yet another operation to try to increase flexibility in his damaged knee . . . Grasshoppers Zurich are to part company with coach HELMUT JOHANNSEN at the end of the season . . . new talks between JOHAN CRUYFF and Cosmos have broken down . . . Penarol boss DINO SANI has turned down an offer from Vasco Da Gama of Rio . . . KEVIN KEEGAN is staying with Hamburg.

INDEPENDIENTE EQUAL BOCA RECORD

SOUTH AMERICA

from Eric Weil

INDEPENDIENTE won the Argentine national soccer championship for the third time (previous wins — the first championship in 1967 and last year) to equal Boca Juniors three titles and once again they did it by what River Plate coach Angel Labruna previously called "their tremendous experience" for cup (knock out) play. Independiente hold the record for Libertadores Cup wins — six.

Also, as was the case in last year's final (knockout) round, midfielder Bochini was the outstanding player and chief orgniser when it mattered most and he also again scored the vital goals — the two with which his team beat River Plate 2-0 in the second leg of the final after a 0-0 draw in the first leg. Thus Independiente qualify for the Libertadores Cup once again, together with surprising First Division champions Quilmes — of whom not too much can be expected — and, of course, cup holders Boca Juniors.

If River Plate had been the better team in the first leg, which finished 0-0 because they couldn't get the goals. Independiente, going all out in attack this time, were even more on top in the second leg and they might have deserved a bigger margin. Independiente had midfield control from the start against the star studded River Plate with five World Cup men in their line-up. Bochini was unstoppable and with their continual rotation Independiente always seemed to have more men near the ball than their rivals. In this scheme of things, River's halves lost their way and were unable to get their team going which, as had been the case for most of the championship, relied on individual bursts in attack and showed gaps in defence.

The final line-ups, which were the strongest for both teams:

Independiente: Baley, Pagnanini (Insaurralde), Villaverde, Irossero, Perez, Larrosa, Fren, Bochini, Alzamendi (Fontana), Outes, Barberón.

River Plate: Fillol, Saporiti, Pavoni, Passarella, H. Lopez, J. Lopez, Merlo, Alonso, Gonzalez (Galletti), Luque, Ortiz.

Play-off matches previous to the finals (between the top two teams of each of four eight team groups): Quarter-finals — Talleres Cordoba (1,3) 4 v Huracan (2,0) 2; Independiente (2,2) 4 v Colon Santa Fe (2,0) 2; Union Santa Fe (2,1) 3 v Racing Club (1,0) 1; River Plate (2,1) 3 v Velez Sarsfield (0,2) 2. Semi-finals — Independiente (2,2) 4 v Talleres Cordoba (1,1) 2; River Plate (1,1) 2 v Union Santa Fe (0,1) 1.

The national championship, which wound up the season, showed some better play, especially in attack, than the First Division championship which preceeded it mainly because River Plate came back with a full strength team for the first time this season, excellent provincial teams such as Talleres Cordoba (with several internationals) and Atletico Tucuman among others participated and the improvement of Huracan and Independiente — the former with the return of Babington at midfield who had been playing in Europe and the latter with the return to form of former international Bochini and the purchase of midfielder Fren from Argentinos Juniors.

Baley (goalkeeper of Independiente) takes a high ball as Passarella of River Plate challenges.

On the other hand, such teams as Boca Juniors, who were more interested in winning the Libertadores Cup, Quilmes and San Lorenzo who rested their first team shortly after the start — the former because they must have thought they had done enough by winning the season's First Division title — should have been kicked out of the tournament. They could do this because there is no regulation in the national championship. In any case, too many poor teams from Buenos Aires were permitted to play in the "national", although the planned reorganisation and reduction of tournaments — starting this coming season — should eventually take care of this, as it should of the soccer saturation which players, fans and even soccer journalists felt by the time the "national" was over.

Apart from the six week recession for the World Cup in Argentina last year, first division league teams played a minimum of 54 games even if they failed to reach the final stages of the national championship or were not involved in the Libertadores or any other cup. The close season, before the first division championships starts again, is just 52 days and in the meantime a summer tournament is scheduled at Mar del Plata — a holiday resort on the Atlantic coast which was a World Cup venue and where a good part of the Buenos Aires population takes its summer holiday — with the big clubs Boca Juniors and River Plate and the Czechoslovakian national team participating among others.

The slightly better play and more interest in this shorter national championship brought a few more fans back through the turnstiles. While Talleres Cordoba, playing their home games at Cordoba's World Cup stadium and filling it as it had never been during the World Cup — they broke the national gate record for league games twice during the final round — the average attendance during the qualifying group games was also up (5,523) on the all time low of 3,723 reached during the season's first division championship.

Chile: PALESTINO — Best TEAM FOR THE LAST THREE YEARS

The new Chilean champions, Palestino, have been the country's most solid team for the last three seasons — and practically unchanged and under the same coach during that period — but luck has not always been with them.

This season they played an extraordinary first half of the first division championship without being beaten, but they surprisingly slumped midway through the second half and this made one think that they still had a jinx on them. As a result, the title hung in the balance until a week before the end of the championship although there was never any doubt that Palestino were the best team.

The club, which represents and is heavily backed financially by Chile's Palestine (Arab) community, has in recent years obtained sound teamwork under Chilean coach

It was almost like Argentina's World Cup win all over again when Palestino won the Chilean first division title and their players ran around the field with the Cup held aloft, followed by a host of photographers and jubilant fans.

Caupolican Peña although the individual skill stands out of such players as centre-backs Elias Figueroa and Edgardo Fuentes (the latter a youngster who has come up through the club's junior teams and stands out even next to brilliant veteran Figueroa), midfielders Manuel Royas y Sergio Messen, goalkeeper Manuel Araya and dangerous attacker Oscar Fabiani, the Argentine born centre forward who was again first division top scorer with 35 goals.

These six players are the backbone of the team which finished with a 23-4-7 record in its 34 leage games and will represent Chile in the Libertadores Cup for the second year running. In 1977, although third, they qualified for the second cup place by winning the four-team play-off between teams finishing 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 5th. (O'Higgins won the play-off for this year's second cup place).

Palestino's professional squad is not big and they used only 17 players during the 34 league matches. They finished with the best attack (73 goals) and defence (32) and remained unbeaten until the sixth match of the second round.

As for the 1978 championship as a whole, the declining standards over the last four or five years have, at least, been arrested and apart from Palestino, a team which may have had a lot to do with this are Cobre Loa who only won promotion to the first division for the first time this season. The club, which is backed by the mining industry of the northern town of Chuquicamata, also played good soccer under well known Chilean coach Andres Prieto and with such stars as former Uruguayan World Cup goalkeeper Mazurkevicz and centre back Mario Soto who is only a short head behind Figueroa. Cobre Loa were runners-up and after starting off by winning their first eight games, they were perhaps just a bit short of experience to stay the pace.

O'Higgins (3rd), another copper miners team from Ranaegua, who improved greatly this season, as well as recent champions Everton and Union Española (even if not quite what they were) helped in the over all improvement of play. Sixth placed Colo Colo, Chile's most popular team by far, were erratic and this was the main reason why there was no corresponding upsurge in attendances. Gates notably improved at a time when Colo Colo seemed to be entering the title fight. Interest in football has however increased in Chile with the introduction, in 1977, of football pools, but gates are still nowhere near what they used to be.

Oscar Fabiani, the Argentine born Palestino forward, became first division scorer for the third year running with 35 goals (followed by Luis Ramos (Green Cross) 25 and Miguel Neira (O'Higgins) 20). This 27-year-old fast player with intuition and quick decision in the area, came to Chile in 1974 without having gained any fame in his own country. He has an eye for goal and does not shoot hard, but rather with good direction, equally well with both feet, while also scoring with headers. (A younger brother is leading scorer of first division Aviación, but is not in the same class).

ELSEWHERE . . .

PERU'S Alianza Lima, unbeaten in their last 10 games and with four wins in a row to finish off the season, retained the first division title, but a last minute decision by the Peruvian FA almost upset the apple cart for them . . . and the runners-up to qualify for this year's Libertadores Cup.

With Alianze leading joint second Universitario and Sporting Cristal by two points with one game to go, the leaders needed only a draw to retain the title, but a day before the final game the FA's disciplinary committee awarded Universitario the points of their drawn match against Colegio Nacional de Iquitos. This meant that Alianza suddenly needed a win for the title with Universitario easily beating lowly Deportivo Municipal (2-0). . . and they only just made it against Athletico Chalaco with Duarte scoring the only goal 11 minutes from the end.

At the same time Sporting Cristal — like Alianza, with practically a full team of internationals — suddenly saw their chance disappear in spite of easily beating bottom Defensor Lima 3-0 in the last game and they are complaining to the FA for taking such a vital decision so late.

● ECUADOR'S champions, Nacional, starting the six team final championship round with a six point bonus by virtue of having won the season's two tournaments, only managed to pick up one point in thier first three of five games and trail Tecnico Universitario (who started with a three-point bonus) by two points.

● BRAZALIAN clubs have decided to form a football Association as a result of disagreements, maily over the running of the national championship, with the Brazilian Sports Confederation (CBD) which up to now has been running all sports in Brazil. Now Brazil's leading clubs feel that the CBD should put its efforts towards organising amateur sport only and leave professional soccer to the projected Federacion Brasileña de Futbol (FBF). To avoid a break away which could result in FIFA sanctions, the plan provides for a friendly separation within 120 days.

Luque in action for River Plate against Independiente.

POLAND LOOK TO THE FUTURE

POLAND quietly closed the door on an era in which the national team twice in succession reached the World Cup finals. In 1974 they finished third, but in 1978 having made the Second Final Pool, could not quite succeed with an ageing side to the last four.

The team which played in Argentina was largely based on the fine squad of four years ago which performed sensationally in West Germany, but of course several men were already past their best and found the physical demands of a world tournament in South American too much for them.

Between the World Cups there was a change of managers when Kazimierz Gorski made way for his assistant, the intellectual Jacek Gmoch, the holder of a university degree and creator of the world famous "Bank of Information". Gmoch, in fact, was the first to devise so called "dossiers" and this represented the most detailed assessment of teams and international footballers ever compiled. The strength and weaknesses of every leading international player are there in Gmoch's personal archives.

Yet, the squad at his disposal in Argentina did not possess enough strength (nor class) to reach a similar high as in 1974. Gmoch, who already fell out with his assistant Ryszard Kulesza, further alienated some of the players with his dogmatic attitude and when the team suffered its two setbacks (v. Argentina and Brazil) the public too, turned against him. Finally he lost the support of the PZPN officials and resigned on October 1.

Prepared

Earlier he prepared the squad for a friendly v. Finland and the European Championship game against Iceland. It was already then evident, that he intended to make a clear out, leaving out in fact eleven men from his World Cup squad!

This included such stalwarts as Tomaszewski, Gorgon, Kasperczak, Zmuda, Szarmach, Lubanski and Deyna. The Poles were good enough to win both matches (1-0 and 2-0), but then the differences between Gmoch and his superiors came to a head and his position was handed over to Ryszard Kulesza.

This 48-year-old began his playing career immediately after the war first with Okecie, then with Polonia Warsaw and also played for Gwardia Warsaw and Polonia Bydgoszcz, at outside left. As a junior he once represented his country. Before he finished his active days he coached second class teams around Warsaw (Ruch Piaseczno, Mazowsze Grojec and Znicz Pruszkow). Later Kulesza took over the League club Lechia Gdansk.

In the autumn of 1974 he became FA coach to the 'Under-21' and later the B-team. At the same time he acted as assistant to the national team manager. Under his guidance the B-team suffered only two defeats in 22 matches.

by Arthur Rotmil

Former Polish national manager Gmoch.

In an exclusive interview Kulesza explained his immediate plans: "I have taken over at a rather unfortunate time. Only a few star players from the World Cup team have remained and I must find their successors almost instantly, because of the European Championship programme. My first priority is to establish good relations with all the League clubs.

"I am constantly travelling visiting the club managers and talking to officials, coaches and players. It is my target to build a national team at ground level, from the clubs who are strong enough in international competitions so that it won't be necessary to make lengthy preparations before full internationals. In addition, I am charged with the responsibility for the team which will play in the Olympics and hope to qualify for Moscow next year, as well as the 'Under-21s' side.

"All these are, however, only stepping stones to the 1982 World Cup. Unfortunately our present team is nowhere near as strong as say five years ago. The side lacks flair and improvisation with which it surprised the opposition in the 1974 World Cup. Our performances in Argentina were disappointing. But I have already begun the rebuilding and rejuvenation and hope to find a mixture of youth and experience to lead us back among the elite.

"We have now a few youngsters who were blooded recently like Nawalka, Iwan and Terlecki. We also have high hopes for others namely Wojtowicz, Ciolek, Malnowicz and Mlynarczyk. I have deliberately left out those stars now playing abroad, Tomaszewski, Kasperczak and Lubanski, but it doesn't mean they are forgotten."

Kulesza ignored those veterans just like Gmoch, but he recalled centre back Zmuda for he needs experience in defence. He started badly when his reshuffled team lost a friendly to Rumania by 0-1, but at least he had the courage to draft in three newcomers who are playing their first season in the First Division: Tadeusz Malnowicz (Ruch Chorzow) and Wlodzimierz Ciolek (Stal Mielec) and after the interval, Stefan Majewski (Zawisza Bydgoszcz).

For the vital European Championship game against Switzerland another new player was picked for the squad of 22: Leszek Lipka (Wisla Krakow). The Poles won this match by 2-0 without being wholly convincing. Poland have landed in a particularly tough qualifying group which also includes Holland, East Germany, Switzerland and Iceland. But if Kulesza can find the right blend in good time, then who knows how far the new team can go.

At the moment the new team chief can count in goal on Zygmunt Kukla (Stal Mielex; aged 31/11 caps). Like other 'keepers in Poland he has had to wait in the shadows of the great Tomaszewski before getting his chance at a late age. Not many problems exist with the back four: Antoni Szymanowski (Gwardia Warsaw; 28/76), Wladyslaw Zmuda (Slask Wroclaw; 24/53) and Henryk Maculewicz (Wisla Krakow; 28/23) are all experienced and reliable.

Kulesza has been criticised for not calling up the former 'libero' Jerzy Gorgon. But the manager will not risk his comeback, as he says: "Gorgon has shown improved form recently — but in the Second Division where he is not really extended." (Gorgon's club Gornik Zabrze were relegated). Maculewicz has earned the boss' confidence and he is also a feared free kick specialist.

The only position in dispute among the rear guard is that of left back. Wojciech Rudy is defensively strong and aggressive, but not adventurous enough going forward. That is why Kulesza tried the experienced and versatile Leslaw Cmikiewicz (Legia Warsaw; 30/57). He played his part in the 1974 World Cup and in the Olympic Games two years later. Cmikiewicz was held in high esteem by the then team chief Gorski, but fell from favour with Gmoch. In reserve there are also the new cap Ciolek and Lipka available.

Strongest

The strongest part of the team is the midfield, with the newly elected "Footballer of the Year", Zbigniew Boniek (Widzew Lodz; 22/29), Adam Nawalka (Wisla Krakow; 21/17) and Stefan Majewski (Zawisza Bydgoszcz 23/4).

Both Boniek and Nawalka were injured in the autumn, but should be fully fit for the second half of the season. Nawalka was really discovered in Argentina, while Boniek first caught the eye when scoring twice in the UEFA-Cup match against Manchester City at Maine Road (September '77).

ATIK IN THE COLD

TURKISH born centre forward Ismail Atik *(pictured right)* signed for Besiktas amid great expectations. Now he is unwanted.

Atik joined Besiktas from HJK Helsinki of Finland and it was thought that he would boost the Besiktas scoring potential. But so far he has been used sparingly, spending most of his time on the substitutes' bench.

He has scored five goals in 13 matches — but in most of those games he has played only 40 minutes or less. In five European Championship matches and a friendly against Norway he has scored five goals but his club, he claims, do not use him as they should.

Sabri Kiraz announced his squad of 24 players for the matches against Algeria and West Germany. They are Cem, Tuna, Onder, Rasit (Fenerbahce), Erdogan, Fatih, Oner, Gungor (Galatasaray), Isa, Huseyin, Rirol (Zonguldak), Rasim, Nezihi (Besiktas), Mustafa, Bora (Altay), Sedat, Erhan Onal (Standard Liege).

HASAN CEMALI

The forward trio has virtually picked itself, after the exit of Lubanski and the total loss of form by Szarmach, who wasn't even chosen recently for his club side Stal Mielec. The wingers are Grzegorz Lato (Stal Mielec; 28/72), still going strong and Stanislaw Terlecki (LKS Lodz; 23/12). The central striker is now Roman Ogaza (Szombierki Bytom; 27/4).

Surprisingly, Lato now has his critics because he is having a poor season, but Kulesza defends the man who was top scorer in the 1974 World Cup: "Lato's season was very tiring — it is understandable that he needs a rest. But his experience is simply invaluable and I don't think he has lost any of his skill. Lato is still courageous, ambitious, fast and he shoots from all angles."

A dangerous raider is also Terlecki, who missed the World Cup finals because of injury. And Ogaza, who was dropped by Gmoch after the 1976 Olympics, is now playing better than ever. His speed and shooting power are tremendous.

Poland have high hopes for the new side which only needs experience of playing together to become a force once more. If they carry on in the European Championship with some measure of success, then they and Kulesza will have laid the foundations for another startling run in the next World Cup.

Finally a note to British sports writers trying to shorten the first name of Kazimierz Deyna (now with Manchester City). You cannot use the term "Kaziu", as a descriptive name, only as a direct form of address — e.g. "Hey, Kaziu, pass the ball". The correct descriptive diminutive of Kazimierz is — *KAZIK*.

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MALMO FOTBOL — DON'T WRITE

FOR SEVERAL years the same old cry has been repeated when the Champions' Cup quarter final draw is made: That the latest selection of clubs are the weakest yet in Europe's premier club contest.

This season was no exception and one of the reasons used to justify the dismissive claim was the presence of Malmö Fotbollförening in the draw — only the third Swedish to make such progress.

It's true that in 15 consecutive campaigns in Europe they have failed to reach beyond the first round on 11 occasions. But you can't so easily write off the club who have this season beaten Monaco and Dynamo Kiev and who are rated as perhaps the most outstanding club Swedish football has thrown up.

That evaluation does not rest solely on their domestic domination since 1974, but on records which go much further back in the club's history.

For a start, they've held their first division place since 1936, a run no-one else can match. In that time they've won the championship 12 times and the cup 10 times, landing the double on no fewer than six occasions — in 1944, 1951, 1953, 1967, 1974 and 1975.

They might have added to that role of honour if they'd been allowed to take their place in the first division when they first earned it, in 1933, after just two years in the senior league. But a controversy over the amateur status of some of their players meant they had to wait until 1936-37 for ultimate promotion.

They finished sixth, embarking on a run which has also brought them into second place in the first division 12 times, and third place on four occasions. But statistics don't tell much about the personality of a club and nor does a list of achievements fully explain how Malmö have continually kept one step ahead of the pack in Swedish football.

Football was played right through the war years in Sweden and this was part of the reason for the Olympic Games triumph in 1948, when they beat Yugoslavia 3-1 at Wembley in the final. The Swedish footballers were better prepared and better organised.

They were not, however, paid. Swedish football has always existed on an amateur basis, even though the top clubs now are semi-professional and Malmö themselves pointed the way towards a new dawn in 1977 when they announced that over the following two years they wanted to go as near to turning professional as any Swedish club can.

After the 1948 Olympics many top players — including the Nordahls, Liedholm, Gren — were lured away to Italy. And in that vacuum Malmö achieved the second of those two records I referred to earlier. Between 1949 and 1951 they played 49 consecutive league games without defeat — a feat regarded now as untouchable. Indeed, in season 1949-50 they took 42 points out of a possible 44!

Their two outstanding players were left back Erik Nilsson and centre forward Ingvar Rydell.

Nilsson won 57 caps for Sweden between 1938 and 1952, playing in the 1948 Olympics and the 1950 World Cup — when the Swedes surprisingly reached the final round. Nilsson was one of the best full backs in the world, a status reflected in his 1950 Footballer of the Year award. He stepped down after captaining Sweden to third place in the 1952 Olympics — an award they took after beating Germany 2-0.

Rydell was also in the team then, though he had played only once in the 1950 World Cup despite his outstanding form that year. He finished the season the league's top scorer with 22 goals. His name is forgotten outside Sweden now, but surprisingly when you consider the far greater fame of Gunnar Nordahl, it is Rydell who has scored more goals in internationals than any other Swede.

He claimed 49 goals in 43 games between 1948 and 1955, while Nordahl — out of commission for much of the time of course in Italy — totalled 43 goals from 33 internationals.

Exile

Several other Malmö players over the years have top-scored in the league. Charles Gustafsson hit 19 in 1956 — the same as IFK's Harry Bild and Henry Källgren — and Dag Szepanski, the son of a Polish exile, got 22 in 1967. Later he played for the Swedish national team, but only after leaving Malmö for AIK.

The 1950s and 1960s were a time of change. In 1953 Sweden abandoned the traditional Western Europe autumn-spring championship to fall into line with their Scandinavian neighbours, playing a full season through without a break from spring to autumn. Only for the World Cup Finals once every four years is the season split — as it had to be last year.

The Cup, after being won in Malmö in 1953, was abandoned, being reintroduced only after a 14-year break in 1967. Again, appropriately, Malmö were the winners, brilliantly guided in attack by Footballer of the Year Ingvar Svahn.

Malmö were double winners that year despite the departure of Bo Larsson to Stuttgart in West Germany the year before. Larsson had been himself Footballer of the Year in 1965 as well as a leading league scorer. But at Stuttgart he would develop into one of Europe's most cultured midfield generals.

More about him later — for he would return to Malmö to become one of the major influences in their 1970s renaissance during which Malmö became one of the few clubs to total 1,000 league games. Number 1,000 arrived only last October — a 1-1 draw away to AIK which brought the detailed record to:

Played 1,000 Won 506 Drawn 239 Lost 255 Goals for 1,958 Agst 1,251

Figuring among those 1,000 games were record 12-0 wins over Jönköping and Halmstad BK as well as a club record league crowd in the municipal stadium of 29,328 for a clash with Helsingborg in September 1967.

As we've mentioned briefly, Malmö's European campaigns began in the mid-1960s and in the search for international experience they have played friendlies over the years against leading national teams such as Brazil (twice), Italy, and East Germany.

Big money

But the most important year of their recent history was 1974. For this was the year Malmö grew up; the year they determined to throw off the complacency which had dogged Swedish football for years — that their clubs and players could never score major achievements because sooner or later the players would be spirited away by the lure of big money.

The first change was the 'promotion' of 81-year-old Eric Persson, long-time president, to honorary president, and the takeover of the club by the ambitious Hans Cavalli-Björkman. At the same time the club gambled on an unknown Englishman, Bob Houghton, as manager.

Houghton, a 32-year-old Englishman who failed to make the grade in midfield with Fulham and Brighton and then went off to play in South Africa with Beria Park, admits now he would be "a nobody back home." But in Sweden he is justly famous, for it is his reign which has established the 'new' Malmö.

Under his guidance the club, cup-holders on his arrival, have won the league title three times, been runners-up in the two other seasons, and won the Cup three times. Now he's brought them to the quarter finals of the Champions' Cup with a reasonable chance of progress at the expense of Poland's Wisla Krakow.

More remarkably, Malmö and Houghton have achieved their success thanks to home-grown players. Few of their men have come through major transfers, yet they have at the same time raised well over £150,000 in sales.

In Houghton's first season Malmö rose from sixth in 1973 to win the league by nine clear points and beat Oester Vaxjo 2-0 in the cup final. In 1975 they ended five points clear, and beat Djurgareens 1-0 in the cup final.

Djurgareens had long been their closest rivals in the league. But with three games to go Malmö won their meeting 4-1 despite being a goal down after 12 minutes. Tore Cervin (two), Roy Andersson and veteran defender and skipper Krister Kristensson were the scorers who assured Malmö the title.

Second in 1976 and last year, and champions in 1977, their record under Houghton is worth a closer look:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1974 Champions	26	19	5	2	48	15	43
1975 Champions	26	18	6	2	53	17	42
1976 Runners-up	26	12	11	3	37	21	35
1977 Champions	26	15	8	3	41	19	38
1978 Runners-up	26	12	8	6	29	15	32

LFORENING THEM OFF!

CLUB FOCUS by Keir Radnedge

Last season they led in the early stages, but after the departure of spearhead Thomas Sjöberg for Saudi Arabia after the World Cup — typically he went out with a two-goal flourish — their title challenge was badly hindered for want of fire-power. To concede only a record 15 goals in 26 games was magnificent, but to score a mere 29 was fatal.

And this is the only factor in which Houghton has his critics. Particularly after the 1976 season, when Malmö were runners-up, he was criticised for paying too much attention to containing the strengths of opponents and not enough on developing Malmö's own attack. They paid a real price too, for that change in style. The fans showed their disapproval by staying away!

However in general Malmö have the most loyal fans in Sweden and their average home league gates last season were 9,400. They saw their favourites beaten only twice as well, but unfortunately one of those home defeats was a vital 1-0 loss in mid-season to Oester and the Vaxjo team kept their noses in front to finish six points clear.

Even so, Malmö will be back in Europe next season, thanks to victory over Kalmar by 2-0 after extra time in the cup final. Their run to the final was remarkable, too, because all their matches were away — 2-0 v Orgryte, 3-0 v Heimar, 4-1 v Västerås, 4-0 v Bua (Sjöberg 2) and in the semi-finals 4-0 v Gais (Tommy Andersson 3).

But for the time being Malmö can put aside thoughts of European soccer next season while they concentrate on the present task and strive to bring to bear against Wisla Krakow some of the experience gained in past campaigns — particularly in 1975-76.

This was by far Malmö's most memorable European venture. In the first round of the Champions' Cup they were drawn against the East Germans of Magdeburg. Tough, at least on paper. But after losing 2-1 away and winning 2-1 at home, the second leg went into extra time.

No more goals — the only incident was expulsion of Sjöberg for dissent — and so to penalties, and a remarkable display by Malmö goalkeeper Jan Möller. He stopped kicks from Streich, Hoffman, Decker and Zapf and Malmö squeezed through 2-1 . . . to earn a second round face-to-face with holders Bayern Munich.

Before the first leg in Sweden coach Dettmar Cramer warned his Bayern stars: "Malmö's players are all skilful . . . but big. They have the fitness of cross-country skiers and the strength of ice hockey players."

Bayern were without Gerd Müller for the first leg, and lost 1-0 to a goal by Tommy Andersson, Sjöberg's deputy. Before the return Cramer had his men working hard practising penalty kicks — but it was needless effort.

The tie was over at the end of 90 minutes, thanks to two controversial goals. In the 59th minute Bernd Dürnberger converted a penalty after Jupp Kapellmann appeared to fall over his own feet, then Conny Torstensson looked a mile offside as he took Klaus Wunder's pass to beat Möller a second time in the 77th.

Malmö were furious with Bulgarian referee Zvetan Stanev, accusing Bayern of bribing him with gifts before the game.

"That's a joke," said Bayern general manager, Robert Schwan. "You can't describe as a bribe a few little souvenirs like a beer jug with our crest, a club badge and pennant and a special silver coin to mark the occasion. That's just a matter of normal courtesy."

Most of Malmö's players that day survive in the present squad, including goalkeeper Möller. A bank clerk by day, Möller graduated to goalkeeping after playing a lot of handball as a youth, and made his league debut in 1972 in emergency, when both Nils Hult and Freddie Forsland were injured. Malmö beat Orgryte 3-0 and Möller hasn't looked back.

Brilliant in the 0-0 draw with Dynamo Kiev in Kharkhov earlier this season, he has yet to play for Sweden, though he was a member of the Argentina party, as reserve to Ronnie Hellström.

Confidence

His greatest moment was the extra time penalty contest against Magdeburg, though earlier this season he wasn't far off equalling the Swedish record for the number of league games unbeaten. Möller's only problem is his confidence. Sometimes his adventurous goalkeeping takes him into the realms of foolhardiness and he has been caught badly positioned way out of his goal more than once.

The defence in front of him is being recast after the retirement of Krister Kristensson. He played his 637th and last game for Malmö in the cup final against Kalmar, but Houghton shouldn't find it too difficult covering for his absence, thanks to the three Anderssons and World Cup left back Ingmar Erlandsson.

The Anderssons comprise Magnus, Roland and Roy — all of whom made the trip to Argentina, even if Roy was the only one who played. He was also Footballer of the Year in 1977 after ending a year-long self-imposed exile from the national team because he wanted to spend more time at home. Roy Andersson is generally acknowledged as the fastest counter-attacking defender in Sweden, though he wasn't outstanding in the World Cup.

In midfield Malmö are blessed with an abundance of talent. There's Anders Ljungberg, the 31-year-old from Limhama who returned to Malmö after two seasons with Atvidaberg between 1969 and 1971. His sharp left foot has earned him the nickname of 'Puskas'. Then there's Staffan Tapper, son of a former Malmö international, and a World Cup stalwart in both 1974 and 1978 —

● *Continued on page 34*

MALMO F.F.

Founded: Feb 24, 1910.
President: Hans Cavalli-Björkman.
Secretary: Carl-Erik Lindstedt.
Team coach: Bob Houghton.
League champions: 1944, 1949, 1950, 1951, 1953, 1965, 1967, 1970, 1971, 1974, 1975, 1977 (12 times).
Cup winners: 1944, 1946, 1947, 1951, 1953, 1967, 1973, 1974, 1975, 1978 (10 times).
Colours: light blue shirts, white shorts.

			caps to Nov. 1			
Player	Job	Age	Senior	U-21/23	Junior	Lge apps 1978 (goals)
Goal:						
J. Möller	Bank clerk	25	—	—	—	26
A. Akesson	Groundsman	30	—	—	—	—
Defence:						
R. Andersson	PE instructor	28	19	14	19	19
R. Andersson	Engineer	29	20	26	7	25(2)
M. Andersson	Student	23	6	8	10	23
I. Erlandsson	Engineer	21	7	1	8	19
K. Jönsson	Student	23	—	—	—	5
C. Malmberg	Salesman	26	—	—	2	13(1)
U. Martensson	Student	19	—	—	—	—
Midfield:						
S. Tapper	Bank clerk	30	36	22	13	15
A. Ljungberg	Instructor	31	8	11	—	25(5)
B. Larsson	Clerk	34	70	3	6	26(1)
R. Prytz	Student	18	—	—	16	6
J. Sjögren	Clerk	22	—	—	—	—
J.-O. Kinnvall	Student	18	—	—	8	14
A. Grimberg	Student	18	—	—	1	—
A. Olsson	Student	19	—	—	—	—
Attack:						
T. Cervin	Teacher	28	1	—	—	17(4)
T. Larsson	Bank clerk	27	4	1	13	16(3)
T. Hansson	Student	22	1	4	15	7
T. Andersson	Merchant	28	—	—	—	11(5)
S. Aslund	Teacher	26	12	—	—	—
M. Arvidsson	Student	20	—	—	—	1
R. Persson	Student	19	—	—	2	—

Note: Players last season included defender K. Kristensson 26 games (now retired) and T. Sjöberg 13 games (six goals) now in Saudi Arabia.

MALMÖ FF IN EUROPE

1964-65	
Champions' Cup:	3-8 2-0 v Lok. Sofia
1965-66	
Fairs' Cup:	1-4 0-3 v 1860 München
1966-67	
Champions' Cup:	0-2 1-3 v Atletico Madrid
1967-68	
Fairs' Cup:	0-2 1-2 v Liverpool
1968-69	
Champions' Cup:	2-1 1-4 v Milan
1969-70	
Fairs' Cup:	0-3 1-1 v Stuttgart
1970-71	
Fairs' Cup:	0-6 2-3 v Hibernian
1971-72	
Champions' Cup:	0-4 1-0 v Ujpest Dozsa
1972-73	
Champions' Cup:	1-0 1-4 v Benfica
1973-74	
Cup-winners' C:	0-0 11-0 v Larnaca
	0-1 1-1 v Zurich
1974-75	
Cup-winners' C:	1-0 0-1 pens v Sion
	3-1 1-0 v Reipas Lahti
	1-3 1-1 v Ferencvaros (quarter finals)
1975-76	
Champions' Cup:	2-1 1-2 pens v Magdeburg
	1-0 0-2 v Bayern Munich
1976-77	
Champions' Cup:	1-2 1-1 v Torino
1977-78	
UEFA Cup:	1-4 2-0 v Lens
1978-79	
Champions' Cup:	0-0 1-0 v Monaco
	0-0 2-0 v Dynamo kiev
	? ? v Wisla Krakow (quarter finals)

Overall record: Played 38 Won 12 Drawn 7 Lost 19 Goals for 48 Against 70

● *Continued from page 33*

though it was Tapper's misfortune to suffer Jan Tomaszewski's penalty save in the 1-0 defeat by Poland in the 1974 second round.

Malmö also boast the latest young Swedish starlet in Jan-Olof Kinnvall (NOT Kindvall). Scorer of key goals against Monaco and Kiev, Kinnvall made his Malmö debut only in August as a substitute in the cup win over Västerås. He joined Malmö from Svenstorps IF two and a half years ago, has played eight times for Sweden's juniors, and is the best bet of the present young crop to go on and earn his fortune abroad.

Finally, alongside, behind, covering, organising, controlling, is the unmistakeable Bosse Larsson. A World Cup veteran of 1970, 1974 and 1978, Larsson began as a striker. He was Sweden's top scorer with 17 goals in 1963 (equal with Lars Heineman of Degerfors) and again with 16 goals in 1970. But inbetween he gained invaluable experience through three years with Stuttgart in the Bundesliga, returning to become "my right arm", according to national team boss Georg Ericsson.

"He is our Beckenbauer," was another Ericsson comment and his regard for Larsson was such that he spent three and a half years after the 1974 World Cup Finals trying to persuade Larsson out of his national team retirement. Larsson did in fact allow Ericsson to wear down his resistance in time to go to Argentina. If he hadn't spent almost four years contentedly running the show at Malmö he would surely topped 100 caps. As it is, when he returned to his exile after Argentina, Larsson's total stood at 70.

It's in attack where Malmö clearly have their problems. Tore Cervin, a regular since making his debut against Hammarby nearly seven years ago, is the only consistently reliable attacker following Sjöberg's departure. But Malmö hope to have found an important ally in the much-travelled Sanny Aslund.

The blond 26-year-old has become the best-paid footballer in Sweden under the terms of a three-year contract worth an annual £20,000, and which allows him to go on with his diamond business inbetween times. This is the second time Aslund has left AIK.

Bor in Sörby, he played first for the local Sörby IK, having changed over from ice hockey because he found the goalscoring sensation more to his taste in football. After helping Degerfors win the third division title he spend 18 months with AIK before his 24 goals persuaded Espanol Barcelona to sign him in the summer of 1974.

He couldn't settle in Spain however, nor in West Germany, where he spent barely a season with Werder Bremen. Two goals against Poland on his debut for Sweden had promised a bright future, but a serious knee injury spoiled the two years after his return to AIK from the Bundesliga.

It will be interesting to see if Aslund can pick up the pieces at Malmö — but not more interesting than the club's experiment in borrowing 21-year-old Edson Rodrigues Monteiro from the Brazilian club, Bahia Victoria. Malmö have paid the Brazilians £10,000 to try him out for the year.

These then, are the men of Malmö — the men who are in with a chance of providing Swedish football with a bright European consolation after the failure in Argentina.

There could hardly be a more appropriate club than Malmö — record champions in both league and cup — to attempt the impossible in the Champions' Cup.

● *Continued from page 21*

began without him. Vicenza could not afford, of course, to be as sanguine. They started badly and Rossi was rushed backed into the first team squad two weeks earlier than was wise for a visit to Bologna.

Rossi had intended to appear just as second-half substitute, but he was so impressed by the tremendous reception afforded him by the fans as he arrived that he told Fabbri he would play from the start. Sadly, even that wasn't enough. Vicenza lost 5-2.

They've struggled since, but Rossi hasn't. Despite his late start, he is as I write now joint leading scorer in the first division with nine goals — one of them the most delicious of all, for it sent Juventus tumbling to a shock home defeat.

Acclaimed as No 5 in Europe in *France Football's* annual poll, the recipient of Sportsman and Footballer of the Year awards in Italy, it wasn't long before transfer rumours began to be heard once more, for Rossi makes no secret of the fact that now he has tasted World Cup success he wants to build on his reputation in the Champions' Cup. And with Vicenza he has no chance!

Does Rossi feel bitter about the way Vicenza clung on to him last year?

"No, because I have a lot of sentimental ties with Vicenza. Don't forget I owe this club a lot for putting me on my feet. Two years ago I was a nobody. In a big club I would have a lot of different opportunities, both in national and international football, but it's up to my president. When he decides, then I'll move."

How have you coped with the fame?

"My mother always told me to keep cool and not let myself be carried away by too much praise but it's not easy, particularly in a small town such as Vicenza where everyone seems to know everybody else's business. You go out in the streets and people make signs at you — two goals on Sunday, or three? It keeps me awake at night, worrying about how much they expect!

"Then when I do sleep I've seen so many journalists they started turning up in my dreams. I answer 1,000 interviews when I'm asleep. It's been the same in Rome, Spain, Argentina . . . wherever we've been people have wanted to talk to me as if I were an international star. It's not an easy life.

"At the start all the fuss made me feel important. But I think I've managed to stay the same person deep down. I still have the same hobbies — cinema, theatre . . . I still like the same music, the same friends, read the same sports papers."

What about the £3.5 million price tag?

"I think it's ridiculous, but I've got used to that, too, I can assure you I don't *feel* some sort of phenomenon."

Did you model your style on anyone?

"No, it's enough for me just to be 'Pablito' Rossi, as they called me in Argentina. That doesn't mean to say I haven't admired Mazzola and Rivera and tried to learn from them. Pele must have been exceptional, but I never saw him play."

Did you aim deliberately for the World Cup?

"When the season began I didn't think I had much chance. Ahead of me were

Graziani — replaced by Rossi.

PLAYER PORTRAIT
on Paulo Rossi

Graziani, Savoldi, Novellino, Pruzzo, all with more experience. I thought it was marvellous when I got into the 22! I was sorry later for Graziano. It's hard to lose your place on the eve of the World Cup finals after being a regular for three and a half years. But he took it very well. That taught me a lesson."

How have defenders reacted to your World Cup success?

"Before Argentina opponents used to stand off me, let me play a bit. Now the game's hardly begun when I get a warning kick. I understand they have to protect their goal — all I'd ask is that they stop attacking me as they do, otherwise I'll never be able to play a full season again."

But even the man who bravely treads the penalty area jungle in *calcio* admits to having been afraid . . . of the possibility of going back to Juventus, when they came calling last summer.

"I really wanted to take the impact of going into *Serie A* in a club where I was at home, without the pressures of having to adapt to a new set-up, new methods, a different style. That's probably what upset Virdis, going up from Cagliari to Juventus the way he did."

With Rossi's market value now standing at £3.5 million, Juventus are in no doubt about the costly nature of their mistake less than a year ago . . .

NORTH AMERICA

by Colin Jose

Canadians snapped up by clubs in the NASL

THE Canadian Soccer Association is becoming increasingly alarmed at the loss of so many top Canadian players and outstanding prospects to United States clubs in the North American Soccer League, and the effect this could have on Canada's national teams.

Last season there were 24 Canadian players on the rosters of American clubs in the NASL, most of them in regular starting roles and with a high percentage having played for Canada at one time or another. This figure will undoubtedly increase in the coming season as three Canadians were picked up by U.S. clubs in the annual college draft and three members from the national youth team have already signed for NASL clubs in the U.S. Others seem certain to follow.

In fact Canada is fast becoming the Scotland of North American soccer in that it is losing players to its richer southern neighbour, and with it of course comes all the problems of getting players released to play for Canada's national teams.

During the coming season Canada must field teams in the qualifying round of the Pan American Games, the qualifying round of the Olympics and the finals of the FIFA World Youth Tournament in Japan and already national team manager John McMahon is having problems obtaining the release of players who have signed with U.S. clubs.

Released

However, McMahon's main concern is the FIFA World Youth Tournament which is scheduled to open on August 25. At this time the NASL will be into its play-offs and should any Canadian youth team players be playing regularly for any U.S. club involved in the play-offs at that time he almost certainly will not be released for the world finals. Even more difficult will be to obtain the release of these players for the end of July when McMahon hopes to take the Canadian youth team on a tour of Europe in preparation for the world finals.

To date three players from that Canadian youth team have turned professional, goalkeeper Chris Turner with the San Jose Earthquakes, centre back Ian Bridge with the Seattle Sounders and sweeper Danny Lenarduzzi with one of the two Canadian NASL clubs the Vancouver Whitecaps.

In addition right back Ivano Belfiore has been signed as an amateur with the Detroit Express and probably the highly promising striker Branko Segota will also sign as an amateur with the Rochester Lancers.

Currently Segota is playing for the New York Arrows of the Major Indoor Soccer League and to date they have refused to release Segota and another outstanding Canadian prospect goalkeeper Enzo DiPede to play for the Canadian Olympic team. Ironically enough the coach of the Arrows, Dragan Popovich and assistant coach Peter Duerden are both Canadians.

Like most national associations around the world the Canadian Soccer Association has a rule to the effect that all Canadian players playing for Canadian clubs must be released to play for their country. And of course like most other countries there is always the club versus country controversy, but generally speaking most Canadian clubs co-operate as fully as possible.

However, the United States Soccer Federation has no such rule and so U.S. clubs can legally refuse to release players to the U.S. national team and often do so. Bearing this in mind it can be seen that McMahon acting on behalf of Canada faces a difficult task.

To be fair it must be emphasised that the United States Soccer Federation has always done all it can to obtain the release of Canadian players playing in the U.S. Also Canada has always had the co-operation of NASL commissioner Phil Woosnam, himself caught in this clubs versus country tangle in his playing days with West Ham and Aston Villa, when he was released by his English clubs to play for his native Wales.

But if the current situation is a problem for Canada just consider what might happen if the United States should reach the finals of the World Cup in 1982. The World Cup finals are usually played smack in the middle of the NASL season, would the U.S. clubs then refuse to release their American players to represent their country in the most important of all soccer tournaments?

Extension

This year the NASL season will open on March 24 with three games while the final will be played at Giants Stadium in East Rutherford, New Jersey, the home of the New York Cosmos on September 8. As a result of the ban on loan players instituted by the British Associations and the probable extension of the British season due to the severe weather problems in January, it is likely that there will be less British players on NASL rosters this season, thus giving more room for native born Americans to gain badly needed experience.

In addition the U.S. Labour Department announced on January 23 that it was reducing the number of alien soccer players allowed into the U.S. to play in the NASL from 245 to 220 for the coming year. This following pressure from the NASL Players Union.

A spokesman for the Players Union pointed out that: "In effect this means 10 visas for each of the 22 American teams (the two Canadian teams are not involved in this of course and Canadian players are counted among the alien quota) and that as there would be no trading of visas this would mean more job security for the players. Now instead of bringing a player over for a couple of games and then discarding him, clubs would have to look more carefully at the players they brought into the country," he said.

The union has also been successful in increasing the minimum monthly salary of players in the NASL from $850 to $1300.

One of the major complaints particularly with regard to loaning players to NASL teams has always been the number of games crammed into a relatively short period of time, the amount of travelling involved along with the curse of having to play on artificial turf, for a high percentage of games.

As a result of this British clubs were paid a nominal fee by NASL clubs which was reimbursed if the player was returned in good condition. Obviously the British clubs from whom the largest percentage of NASL players came were not entirely satisfied with this arrangement and so players must now be transfered in the normal manner.

Even so some noteable names have so far moved across the Atlantic, Trevor Whymark and Roger Kenyon to Vancouver, Alan Hudson to Seattle and Terry Darracott to Tulsa. They were almost joined by Kevin Keegan.

CANADIANS WITH U.S. CLUBS IN THE NASL IN 1978

Chicago Sting. Bruce Wilson, Gene Strenicer
Colorado Caribous. Brian Budd
Detroit Express. Paul Hunter, Gus Moffat
Fort Lauderdale. Tibor Gemeri
Houston Hurricane. Gerry Morielli
Los Angeles Aztecs. John McGrane
Memphis Rogues. Paul D'Agostino
Minnesota Kicks. Tino Lettieri
New York Cosmos. Jack Brand, Rober Iarusci, Garry Ayre
Oakland Stompers. Bruce Twamley
Portland Timbers. Brian Gant, Ike MacKay, Peter Stanley
Rochester Lancers. Pat Ercoli
San Jose Earthquakes. Victor Kodelja
Seattle Sounders. Tony Chursky, Bruce Miller
Tampa Bay Rowdies. Wes McLeod
Washington Diplomats. Carmine Marcantonio, Mike Bakic

Petur Petursson (left) playing for Akranes against Valur. Petursson is now with Feyenoord. The Valur players are defender Grimur Saemundsej and goalkeeper Sigurdur Haraldson.

ICELAND

from Kjartan L. Palsson

Player exodus is a big blow

THE biggest blow to football in Iceland during 1978 was the loss of many of the country's best players to foreign clubs.

Many clubs in Europe realised that they could purchase good players in Iceland for relatively small sums of money and as a result players went to Sweden, Denmark, Belgium and Holland.

It is understandable that players in Iceland readily accept the chance of playing abroad . . . and being paid for their efforts. In Iceland they receive nothing, not even when appearing for the national side. Even the players who have become professionals away from Iceland are not paid when they return to represent Iceland.

Players in Iceland even have to buy their own boots and pay their own expenses, so it is no wonder that they call themselves the last amateurs in Europe.

Hardest hit were former (1977) champions Arkanes. They lost two of their best players — and a third is probably on his way to Holland. Arni Sviensson is now training with FC Exelsior.

The other two are Karl Thordarson, who went to La Louvier in Belgium, and Petur Petursson, who joined Feyenoord. Twente Enschede were also interested in this 18-year-old.

The year before Akranes lost Teitur Thordarson to Sweden, where he played for Oster in their championship year. Two other Icelandic internationals, Jon Petursson and Arni Stefansson, also play in Sweden with second division club Jonkjobing.

Denmark, in their first year of professional football, attracted three other internationals — Sigurdur Bjorgvinsson (B1901), Atli Thor Hedinsson (Herfolge) and Stefan Orn Sigurdsson (Holbaek).

Two other internationals went to Belgium, with goalkeeper Thorstein Bjarnason joining La Louvier from Keflavik, and 16-year-old Arnor Gudjonsen — the most promising player in Iceland — going to Lokeren.

Many other young players in Iceland are ready and willing to go abroad to join the professional ranks. But the Icelandic Football Association are trying to put the brakes on this exodus of their best players, otherwise there will be nothing left for the home fans when the snow melts in the spring.

The Champions of Iceland in 1978 were Valur, trained by former Hungarian international Nemes Gyula. Valur, from the Capital of Iceland, Reykjavik, are the only club who have never been out of the first division here. They dropped only one point in 18 games, when they drew with KA from Akureyri.

The only match they lost all season was the Cup Final against Akranes. This was the 10th Final appearance of Akranes in the 19-year history of the competition. They beat Valur 1-0 with a goal from Petur Petursson (now with Feyenoord).

He set a new goalscoring record in Iceland with 19 goals in 16 games. In all he managed 31 goals in 26 first division, cup and European Cup matches.

Johannes Edvaldson of Iceland (now with Celtic) in action against Poland.

EUROPEAN TITLE GOOD FOR KEEGAN

by BRIAN GLANVILLE

TO lend rather than lose players from Europe to the United States is, I suppose, the lesser evil, yet from the point of view of the players themselves, I confess that I find it an alarming tendency.

Trevor Francis went to the Detroit Express last summer, Kevin Keegan is it seems on his way there next summer. Birmingham City allowed Francis to go out of sheer desperation at the prospect of losing him, but even though the severe injury which kept him out of the game for three months on his return from Detroit had nothing whatever to do with his stay there, the fact remains that he is notoriously a player liable to injury, and that to burn the candle at both ends in this way, even if the burning be worth £50,000 every summer, is as sure a way as any to cut short his distinguished career.

As for Keegan, I cannot make out what has come into his usually well articulated head. The initial dilemma seemed to be between accepting a massive new offer from Hamburg, or to accept a still more massive one from the Washington Diplomats, who now have all that Gulf Western money behind them. He appears to have elected for the best of both worlds by deciding to play both in Germany and America. The money no doubt is enormously tempting, the career of a footballer notoriously short: but how much shorter does it become when that footballer, already under immense pressures in Europe, doesn't take the summer, or some of it, off?

Keegan's choice as European Footballer of the Year seemed to me thoroughly well deserved. Indeed, I thought he should have had it for 1977, after his superb exhibition against Borussia Munchengladbach in the European Cup Final in Rome. That day, he wholly outshone Allan Simonsen, even though the little Dane was presented with a spectacular goal by Jimmy Case.

Over the two seasons, then, Keegan can hardly be grudged his honour, and it surely the more remarkable inasmuch as he did not play in the World Cup finals. For this reason, the meticulous Jacques Ferran, chief correspondent of *France Football*, refused to put Keegan on his list, but I find his logic most debatable.

There is, certainly, a good case for saying that a World Cup is like the Olympic Games that to prove you are a supreme footballer you should really, like Bobby Moore, Johan Cruyff or Mario Kempes, prove it in the World Cup. Yet there are holes in the argument. Keegan, it is true, was a limp figure — as certain malign Italian footballers pointed out — when he played in Rome in the World Cup match against Italy in November, 1977: but he was splendid when England beat Italy at Wembley, a year later.

The other afternoon, a Saturday of course, I heard a First Division manager-coach expanding on the fact that Keegan's choice had a special importance, in that it proved a player could reach the highest peaks of the game without being especially gifted. He spoke without malice. Was he right? Perhaps in a sense he was.

Keegan's early career at least suggests that to some extent his has been the triumph of mind over matter, and he himself received his merited award with proper modesty when he said that he could not be compared with a player like Ferenc Puskas, who never won the award. Perhaps, too, his awareness that he has triumphed despite a modest technical equipment (and couldn't just the same be said about Bobby Moore?) has something to do with his readiness to grasp at those lucrative contracts that are offered to him — while they are still being offered.

Nevertheless, it would be foolish to underrate him. How many strikers could have made a monkey out of the close marking Berti Vogts as Keegan did that night in Rome? Keegan has explosive pace, he is quick in both thought and movement, can jump to head goals with a facility remarkable in one so small, has a lively awareness of what is going on around him, and if he is scarcely a Tom Finney or a Johan Cruyff in ball control, he can twist and turn effectively to beat his man. To succeed as he has done in two Championships as difficult as our own and West Germany's, to have done as well as he has, after an undistinguished start, for England, seems to me to be sufficient answer to any possible detractors. But I hope he doesn't burn himself out.

Dedicated

WHEN Malcolm Allison went back to Manchester City, the groupies of the Press were out in force to celebrate this second coming. I like Malcolm, admire what he did for City in the sixties, hope he can do it again, but feel it wrong to minimise the extent of the enterprise. To succeed, he must first turn the clock back, first become the kind of dedicated coach he was in his early forties; and that is not easy.

The high metropolitan life has always fascinated Malcolm, and the desire to cut a dash has not always been compatible with the hard, daily grind of the football coach. Coaching, it seems to me, is his — or perhaps was his — essential forte, and it was his failure to play to his true strengths, as much as anything else, which brought about the disasters at Crystal Palace, as they slid down, down into the Third Division. At Maine Road, the essential function of that wily old survivor Joe Mercer, a far better player than Allison ever was, but a much less effective coach, was to be the restraining influence: the super ego, if you wish.

Allison has been pilloried for his excesses, but one must not sell him short. His love for the game has always been unquestionable, even if it has had to compete with his love for the *Dolce Vita*. Many years ago, I remember him telling me bitterly of how, when he was a young Charlton Athletic professional, he was ignored by the then celebrated manager, Jimmy Seed.

One day, Allison happened to be training alone when Jimmy Seed came down to the ground, and tried to introduce him to a visitor. "You!" said Allison, with spleen. "I don't even know you!"

Later, he would play centre-half for West Ham United, that college of coaches, fall ill with tuberculosis, lose a lung, fight and force his way back into the game. I always thought it unfortunate that he came back to London, managing Palace.

The combination of Allison, that arch Metropolitan, and the provinces has somehow worked, and may even work again. "I'm a Northerner now!" he said to me, smiling, many years ago, when I lunched with him in Manchester. Now he is a Northerner, at least by adoption, again. Will lightning strike twice? Well watch this space, and listen to the groupies.

Revelation

FRANCO Baresi, the young Milan sweeper who has been praised as the star of the Italian season, the new revelation, has had some interesting complaints to make about the club's football "village" of Milanello, out in the rolling country, where they have training, medical and domitory facilities, and where junior players reside.

"To live at Milanello," he says, "is a great sacrifice. I'd abolish it, because the days never pass, there isn't a solitary distraction, just the football field, the television and our own little rooms. That's no life. I've suffered a lot, especially in the first year, when I was far from home. I think the others, my contemporaries, suffer the same way, those of them who haven't yet got into the first team."

I'm quite sure they do. Alas and alack, the life of the young professional footballer anywhere in the world tends to be mindless and stultifying. Even the brightest of them find it hard to make profitable use of their spare time. The discipline atrophies.

Will the FA act to limit the number of 'oriundi' at each club?

by ERIC BATTY

WHILE the arrival from Argentina of Osvaldo Ardiles and Ricardo Villa stirred most interest by far, I have also been given food for thought by the less heralded arrival of Manchester United goalkeeper Gary Bailey who crept in quietly from South Africa, and looks now to have earned a regular first team place, and solved United's long standing problem position.

Significantly, United, who were prepared to pay a very big fee for Argentina's World Cup goalkeeper Ubaldo Fillol, have rightly been so impressed that they decided to keep their odd half million or so, and instead, very wisely invested in a few thousand (relatively) a year, to engage their former goalkeeper Harry Gregg to coach their 'keepers. That surely was one of the shrewdest moves of the season.

But the fact that Bailey came here from South Africa was due to his own initiative, and not the result of a scouting system set up by officials at Old Trafford. It makes me wonder how many more good young players like Bailey there may be playing in the white South African clubs — and how many more potentially outstanding players there may be in the coloured leagues if only some enterprising club was to set up a scouting network.

At one time the coalfields of England and Scotland were the most prolific suppliers of talented players, and this was equally true, the equation between coal and football, in the Silesian coal region for Poland, and the Pas de Calais in France. Coal and young talent were synonymous.

Studying

But times have changed and all over Europe youngsters today are spending far more time studying than ever before, playing organised games but not devoting the necessary hours each day to street football which is how the great players of the past developed their talents.

Even the youngsters that are not educationally very bright or whose parents do not push them to study, still do not play football for hour after hour every day, as they once did. Youngsters in this category have money to spend and find other, less physically exhausting ways of spending their free time.

So across Europe there is now a really acute shortage of young players with the necessary skills to match their predecessors. This applies everywhere except perhaps underdeveloped areas like Southern Italy, and the odd region in one or two other countries but by and large the days when kick-about football produced real talent are very definitely over.

This is reflected already at the upper level by the enormous transfer fees British clubs are asking for quite ordinary players. For £2,000 today you can only get someone that I would describe as a useful programme seller. Birmingham City topped it all off by receiving £1 million for Trevor Francis from Nottingham Forest.

Of course we live in inflationary times, but fancy transfer fees are not the result of inflation alone. They are generated simply because there are so few really good players available, and this applies particularly to goal-scoring forwards.

Hopefully, if my crystal ball is not too badly fogged, I can see the day when English clubs will have organised scouting crews in every South American country, throughout Scandinavia, and at least the basis of a talent seeking unit spread across Africa.

But this raises problems that are akin to those the Italians faced in the 1950's when quite ordinary players poured in to the poorer clubs from places like Paraguay, and the situation that has now developed in Spain.

According to Spanish figures that were recently published there are well over one hundred foreigners playing in Spain, many of them with Third Division teams, and again coming from Paraguay, Uruguay, other less well endowed South American countries like them, and swarms of second grade Argentinians.

These second grade players are a problem all alone, for only the lesser clubs want them, cheap as they are, but they really do prevent quite good home bred players from getting the chance to develop.

Viv Anderson in action for Nottingham Forest against Frank Stapleton of Arsenal.

Coaching

In the First Division every club should aim to produce a majority of their future first team players from their own coaching and development programmes, as in fact they all try to do with varying degrees of success. Then when they really need to buy to fill a weakness, they can look around the lower divisions to find the man or men they are seeking. This keeps the money of the First Division clubs within the Football League and gives a much needed boost to the finances of lower clubs.

So if Third and Fourth Division clubs were allowed to import players it really would act against the best interests of the domestic game. There is one more point that the English probably will not realise, but has

Laurie Cunningham of West Bromwich Albion — included in the England squad for the match against Northern Ireland.

already manifested itself in Italy — before the ban was imposed — and in Spain now.

A club signs two or three South Americans of genuine Spanish descent, and then, quite legally they acquire Spanish passports. Then, even if there is a limit on the number of imported players that each club can engage, the first imports become Spaniards, and open the door to another two or three imported players of Spanish descent.

In Spain and Italy they call them *Oriundi*, foreign born players who can legally claim a passport of the country they are playing in.

The English do not have a word for such players, but we could quite reasonably call them, citizens of former colonies, and even if they had to live in England for two years before they could claim a British passport, they would get it eventually.

Gary Bailey of course has already played for the English Under 21 team and would be beyond the scope of any limit that the FA or League put up for consideration. So even if, as will happen I am sure, there is eventually a limit imposed on the number of foreign players each club can sign in England the 'oriundi' door is still open to players from Africa, the Caribbean, and even Australia and New Zealand.

Residential

Then, once here they can acquire a British passport, and permit their club to sign more.

As usual, the English are always several years behind other countries and of course it is only comparatively recently that the FA relaxed their two year residential rule on foreigners. But there has never been any barrier to citizens of former British colonies.

Benfica found a whole string of African players who were eventually well up to European standards and the Congo once provided Belgian clubs with top class coloured players. In particular, Paul Bona-Bonga of Standard Liege and Mario Coluna of Benfica were truly great players, comparable with anyone.

But other players from Africa have sometimes lacked the ability to accept physical contact, despite being brimful of talent. In particular I am thinking of Salif Keita who did great things in France for St. Etienne and came from unknown Mali, while another in this category was Eusebio who always disappointed me after his first two years at the top.

I was very disappointed by a superbly gifted coloured player that I saw at West Ham, who despite all his terrifying array of skills and an obvious natural ability to think football, never really established himself.

Ade Coker who came from Ghana is now playing well I understand in the USA, but when I first saw him at fourteen I was convinced he would become another Pelé.

But he failed at First Division level, unable to reproduce his talent under pressure, at speed, and in the face of physical intimidation.

Players like Viv Anderson of Nottingham Forest, Cyrille Regis and Laurie Cunningham of West Brom and probably many more are a different brand of fish because born in England, they have adjusted from birth to our society, which is in my view, having travelled quite a lot, is the most violent in Europe, apart from Italy and Spain.

Violence and low living standards clearly go hand in hand. No one will argue that the most violent places in Britain are the big cities with lots of slum dwellings like Glasgow, Liverpool and the cities and towns of northern England as well as some areas of London.

Brought up here, well adjusted to the inbred violence of Britain they do not find it difficult to settle down in the fast, physical contact game that is England football.

Clearly, more will follow Anderson, Regis and Cunningham, and here I might add that I have a specially high regard for Garth Crooks of Stoke City, for football is the relatively easy way for under priviledged coloured youngsters who are unfortunately discriminated against, to reach the higher income groups. In the same way, music was the open door to the coloured peoples of the United States — and still is — though it was more obvious in the twenties and thirties.

Music and sports like basketball, etc., offer coloured youngsters in the USA similar opportunities that are promised by football in England, so inevitably there will be more and more coloured players reaching top level.

Athletics and boxing, although I am only a casual observer of these sports, via my TV set, are now dominated in Britain by coloured people and football will follow.

So if coloured players are going to supplement the sources of talent that are drying up in England, I doubt if there will be enough with the necessary qualities to go round and before other countries start to 'steal' citizens of former British colonies I urge those in high places within English clubs to set up talent seeking schools throughout the under developed world that was once under the Union Jack.

If we do not then others will, for the West Germans are looking everywhere for talented players with a Japanese and a South Korean international already active in the Bundesliga.

The Dutch, faced by the fact that their well of talent is drying up are also seeking players from the little known islands of the soccer world and also I hear that one Dutch club or another has got a player on trial from some exotic place.

I do not seriously suppose that English clubs will do it, allowing the Dutch and the Germans to nick players that would naturally move towards Britain. I am sure there must be many players — almost ready for top class competition, witness the performances of Iran and Tunisia in Argentina — just waiting to be snapped up at bargain prices.

But when the English clubs do begin to look around the world seriously the FA must be ready with a plan to limit the numbers of foreigners per club, and also to control the stream of British 'oriundi' that will sooner or later come.

It will take time, for while it would be nice to think that Manchester United found Bailey, the fact is that he came to England under his own steam. He was not spotted by a Manchester United scout in South Africa, and to this extent United have been fortunate.

CELTIC START AGAIN

THE final link Celtic had with their glorious recent past was well and truly severed when their own player, the unfortunate Jim Casey, deflected a loose ball past Roy Baines in the League Cup semi-final against old foes Rangers at Hampden this season.

They were heading for their 15th successive appearance in the Final of this competition and it's a world record that will surely never be broken. It was also a tangible form of evidence dating back even before Jock Stein's time that Celtic once were a team to be feared, a team to be applauded by the neutrals.

Celtic and Billy McNeill are now out on their own. They will have to make their own history. The Parkhead side eventually bowed out of the League Cup in tragic circumstances. It was a most unhappy exit and Celtic were the team Dame Fortune chose to ignore that wintry night at Hampden.

They took the lead with a superb goal by Johnny Doyle, but were pulled back by a controversial penalty-kick, expertly netted by Sandy Jardine. Referee Hugh Alexander also sent off Tommy Burns, the young and thoughtful Parkhead midfielder, for over-vigorous protestations about the award. In the second-half the referee also ordered off Rangers' Alex Miller before Celtic scored again through Tom McAdam.

Celtic were only seven minutes away from their old familiar place in the League Cup Final when Colin Jackson swung at a bouncing ball in a packed penalty area and completely mis-kicked. The weirdly bouncing ball foxed Roy Baines and it bounced over the line. Then came the own goal minutes from the end of extra time and the end of an era.

McNeill's men face an awesome task in restoring their image. Players have often complained long and loud about being compared with the Lisbon Lions, the side that won the European Cup in 1967 and entranced and enchanted soccer audiences everywhere with their explosive invention. That was a team that combined all the arts and crafts; a rare blend of players with a fine team balance. As Tommy Gemmell — one of my favourite-ever players — says: "That side is probably as near to perfection as you will get on a pitch."

I don't think he is saying that just because he took part in the making of that legend. I believe Gemmell is totally and absolutely sincere and a lot of other people obviously agreed at the time.

Real Madrid's famous White Arrow, the incredible Alfredo di Stefano, asked Celtic to provide the opposition for his testimonial in '67. They duly granted his wish . . . and won 1-0 with a goal from Bobby Lennox.

Bobby Moore, Bobby Charlton, Jackie Charlton and Billy Bremner, among others, wanted Celtic for their testimonials, too, because they knew they were crowd pullers as well as crowd pleasers. When people talked about good football, flowing, original football, they eventually got round to Celtic. Jimmy Johnstone, Bobby Murdoch, Bertie Auld and Billy McNeill himself as well as Gemmell were well known throughout the world.

It's changed days now. When Peter Latchford crossed the Border originally on his loan transfer deal from West Brom four seasons ago he admitted candidly that he didn't know many of his new team mates. He agreed that he had not even heard of most of them.

So, everything considered, it's a daunting challenge that Celtic face. They can't run away from it and I'm certain they don't want to anyway. No longer can they truly be compared with the team of the Sixties. To be honest, it just wouldn't be fair. How many of today's team would get a place in the Gemmell, Murdoch era?

A fully fit Danny McGrain might have claimed a place, but after that you are struggling. I must say here, though, that Billy McNeill does have some exciting potential in today's team. Roy Aitken is the proverbial powerhouse, always running, always looking for the ball and always ready to help a colleague in trouble.

Tommy Burns is a graceful athlete with a lovely left foot that sends the ball curving through rearguards, spreading great alarm. He tends to overplay the ball at times. He knows he has skill, he knows he possesses rare talent, but once he is harnessed into a team pattern and freed of roles that have sometimes seen him operating at left-back then his game will undoubtedly benefit.

by ALEX GORDON

I also think Roddie MacDonald is a much-maligned centre-back. I believe only Dundee United's superb Paul Hegarty is better than the Celt in the air in the Premier League. Roddie is a good team man and, like his boss McNeill before him, he brings worried frowns to rival defences when he moves up for set-pieces.

George McCluskey is a young striker who blows hot and cold and you never know quite what to expect from him. I don't think he is equipped to be the main striker in any team, but he will score goals as a back-up man. It's really about time McCluskey put his talent on show on a more consistent basis. The sooner he starts the better it will be for his career.

Billy McNeill deserves a pat on the back for having the courage and the conviction to spend £225,000 on bringing Davie Provan, from Kilmarnock, and Murdo MacLeod, from Dumbarton to Parkhead. Both are exciting youngsters and will play their parts in the rebuilding of the Celtic image.

Provan has moved into the outside-right berth. It's a role that hasn't really been filled since Jimmy Johnstone quit. I like the look of Provan. He is menacing and alert and he hits crosses with supreme accuracy. Provan is a clever player who adds a new dimension to the Celtic system. He has almost got a free role along the forward line. He is as likely to pop up on the left wing as he is on the right.

MacLeod is a different player entirely. It's too early to judge him too harshly, but he is a brilliant prospect, there can be little doubt about that. He is full of industry and power. He is aggressive without being robust. And I think he'll remind the Celtic fans of Bobby Murdoch by the way he will come surging through from midfield and hammer whizzbang efforts from long range at the opponents' goal. That has been sadly lacking in recent years.

Rivals

The Celtic of the Sixties had a shoot-on-sight look about them. They bombarded their rivals with a variety of shots. Whereas Gemmell and Murdoch preferred to blast their way through with guided-missile power, Bertie Auld relied on a more subtle approach with slow, curling efforts that left goalkeepers scampering across their goal-lines like drunken puppets.

Inevitably with a barrage of shots homing in on the target there were rebounds galore and that is where the likes of Steve Chalmers, Willie Wallace, Joe McBride and Bobby Lennox came in.

Celtic's top scorer this season is Tom McAdam and I believe his game has come on by a fair degree recently. He is a lot more positive than he used to be. He doesn't drift away from the action now and he'll go in where the brave should be in search of goals. He is willing to fight every inch of the way and with better service and a bit more support he could be even more successful.

Obviously McGrain has a lot to offer Celtic when he gets back to peak fitness. Selling Kenny Dalglish and then losing McGrain, Alfie Conn and Pat Stanton with injuries over a year ago was a blow from which Celtic have not yet recovered. They lost a bit of their glitter and poise, they couldn't replace these quality players and although their stand-ins did their best you

Davie Provan (Celtic) and Andy Dunlop (St Mirren) challenge for the ball.

cannot trade in a Mini and hope to get a Mercedes.

Alfie Conn began the season in a flurry of goals. I watched him in a League match against Morton at Cappielow where he took a couple of knocks on the leg that had given so much trouble the previous season, but he came through unscathed. He sacrificed a bit of his flair that day to fit into a determined Celtic pattern. When Celtic went 2-1 ahead they were happy to keep it that way.

Conn filtered back and did a good job. He was always there to go wide and hold the ball when the situation dictated. Unfortunately, Conn couldn't maintain that form. Injuries haven't helped, either, but what a shame it would be if a player of his undoubted class and stature had to slip out of the big-time. The game would be a poorer place without his sparkling skills.

Celtic have had their problems in defence, notably in the sweeper's position. It's no surprise to see their name linked with that of David Narey (Dundee United), Willie Miller (Aberdeen) and Gregor Stevens (Motherwell). They need a dominant player in this position, a back-four man who can calm things down and also bring out the best in MacDonald.

Career

Pat Stanton did the job superbly before injury cruelly cut short his career. Celtic tried all sorts of permutations last season, but just couldn't find a suitable replacement.

Buying Frank Munro from Wolves illustrates just how desperate Celtic were to find an answer to this problem. I reckon Frank must be Celtic's most expensive buy when you consider he cost £20,000, played only 21 games and was then freed at the end of the term when it was obvious to everyone that he had little to offer Celtic.

I think this is a position where Billy McNeill will have to spend money. I don't think there is anyone at Parkhead at the moment who could step in and do the job while looking to the long term.

Orthodox

Celtic, then, have the nucleus of a good side. Three or four years from now they could be a very impressive outfit. McGrain, Aitken, MacDonald, Burns, Provan, MacLeod and McAdam are good professionals with a lot to offer the club.

Peter Latchford can be a magnificent goalkeeper on occasions, but I get the impression a return to English football wouldn't upset him too much. Roy Baine is a fair 'keeper, but whether or not he is any better than the likes of Evan Williams, John Fallon and Denis Connaghan who went before him remains to be seen.

Andy Lynch has done a marvellous job at left-back for the Parkhead side when you consider he joined them from Hearts as an orthodox outside-left. Possibly I have been spoiled by the flamboyant raiding of Gemmell, but I always feel that a Celtic left-back should offer a little something out of the ordinary. Lynch is a good team player, but there is a question mark hovering over his overall ability. I think he is lacking a bit in the main part of his job which is the reading of play as it comes towards him.

Alan Sneddon is a bright prospect, but, like Lynch, he tends to get lost a bit when things are going on behind him in the danger zone. He has time to rectify that fault, though, and I'm sure he will.

I would think Celtic are going along the right lines, but the fans must be patient. They must remember that all good things are worth waiting for. They must recall the lean years of the late Fifties and very early Sixties when a team comprising of a young McNeill, Murdoch, Gemmell, Johnstone etc, fought to find a rhthym that would re-establish the proud name of Celtic.

That same process is going on today. McNeill deserves the highest praise for returning to the team during the close season. He had a good, secure job as manager of Aberdeen and he admits he enjoyed the Pittodrie set-up. However, he still gave up all that, as did his assistant John Clark — another Lisbon Lion — and came back to Parkhead and a pyramid of problems.

Challenge

It was a challenge that demanded a brave man to answer it. McNeill has proved his courage. He asks for time and surely he deserves that plea to fall upon sympathetic ears. If the fans are having a bad time as Celtic strive to become great again they should think of how McNeill feels.

He played a significant part in the making of Celtic in the Sixties. He was Jock Stein's on-the-field spokesman and he impressed with his leadership and authority. He has now taken those qualities into the dug-out and, in time, the McNeill influence will come through on his teams.

Dream

Players will come and players will go before things are settled. McNeill has his own ideas about shuffling the pack and I wouldn't dream of telling him how to do his job, but I feel that Celtic would have helped their cause if they had moved for Tommy Craig, of Aston Villa, while he was with Sheffield Wednesday about six years ago.

I believed then — and I believe now — that Craig could do a tremendous job for Celtic. He may be a bit similar in style to Tommy Burns, but he has a lot more aggression and fire about his play as well as possessing that marvellous quality of thinking two passes ahead of everyone else.

Celtic must look to the future and forsake a quick Cup win every now and again. The name of the game is consistency and that is the ideal for which McNeill is aiming.

The Celtic of today must forget the Celtic of yesterday. Lisbon is well in the past. It might be nice to bring out the memory every now and again, dust it down, put it on show and say nice things about it, but teams cannot afford to live in the past.

I feel Celtic fans will agree with me and give McNeill time to build and express himself. If they don't and demand instant success then they will only have themselves to blame if it doesn't materialise.

Time is a barrier that cannot be conquered. It finally caught up with Celtic when Jim Casey inadvertently lent it a hand against Rangers. Now is the time to start completely afresh.

That own goal may actually turn out to be a blessing in disguise . . .

BEARZOT ROW

THE smouldering row between Enzo Bearzot, manager of the Italian national team, and Italo Allodi, that serpentine, enigmatic figure who still runs the Technical Centre outside Florence, burst fully into flame in late January.

Bearzot ws furious that, at the instigation of Allodi, he should not be, despite Italy's World Cup successes, awarded the title of Seminatore d'Oro, Golden Sower. Allodi last September insisted that Bearzot did not, as national team manager, sow players, he only reaped; he should merely be given a golden plaque in recognition of his services.

A furious Bearzot turned it down, protesting that it was impossible to work peacefully as team manager while there was "a Brutus at my back." Allodi, friend and defender of our old acquaintance Dezso Solti, who bought referees for Inter and tried to buy them for Juventus, was general manager of Italy at the time of the Stuttgart scandal in 1974. Italian players offered money to the Poles on the field in Stuttgart, to allow them to draw; and stay in the competition. The Poles won; and eliminated them.

by Brian Glanville and Keir Radnedge

Allodi, man of so many secrets, has such power in Italy that few dare challenge him. Simply, he knows too much. But Bearzot, who detests and despises him, has broken the conspiracy of silence. More power to him.

Nobodies

Gian Battista Fabbri, the man who turned Lanerossi Vicenza from second division nobodies into first division runners-up, was the eventual choice. But the selection committee offered a special one-off award to Bearzot — who refused it.

"I appreciate the offer," he said, "but Fabbri well deserves his own award and I do not think it is up to me to take anything away from him."

There has been speculation that the knives may be out for Bearzot as controversy builds up over whether he should be making experiments in his selections with a view to the team for the 1980 European championship finals.

In Milan on February 24 Italy are home to Holland, hoping to take a pyrrhic revenge for the 2-1 defeat in Buenos Aires which deprived the Italians of a place in the final against Argentina.

In seven games between the nations Italy have won only twice and it's not everyone who wants to see Bearzot fielding his strongest possible team this time.

Juventus coach Giovanni Trapattoni for one. He's tacitly suggested Bearzot might overlook his players for the Holland game. But despite Juve's comparative flop in the league so far — they're fifth, six points behind leaders Milan — there are still no real deputies for Dino Zoff in goal, Claudio Gentile and Gaetano Scirea in defence, as well as Marco Tardelli in midfield and Franco Causio and Roberto Bettega up front.

Zoff is the oldest member of the Juve *Azzurri* squad at 36, but the irony is that the most consistent goalkeeper in the league is Milan's Enrico Albertosi and he's 39!

Young Fiorentina bid for championship

ITALY

IT'S TEN years since Fiorentina last won the *scudetto* and when they did it was with a young team which promised far more than they ever achieved.

Superchi, Roggra, Ferrante, Brizi, Merlo, De Sisti were the kids who blossomed too soon and quickly faded in the intense heat at the top of *Serie A*.

Now coach Paolo Carosi is putting together another youthful side, and doing it comparatively cheaply. The total cost of their squad has been £1.5 million, of which £300,000 was the biggest fee paid in 1972 to fourth division Astimacombi for Giancarlo Antognoni.

At the other end of the scale four of the present first team, goalkeeper Giovanni Galli, full back Alessio Tendi, midfielder Antonio Di Gennaro and forward Luciano Venturini, cost nothing. These four are now worth more than that £1.5 million between them.

Carosi reckons it will be two years before they have matured enough to win the championship. The question is: Can they hang onto Antognoni until then?

Albertosi's ambition is to play in the Champions' Cup at 40 and the way Milan are going his chances are good. With 27 points from 17 games they are three ahead of Perugia, four clear of Torino and five in front of Internazionale.

Perugia remain the only unbeaten team, though they left it very late when they faced Inter at home. Sandro Altobelli (20 mins) and Carlo Muraro (36) put Inter clear before the interval and though Perugia pulled one back through Franco Vannini in the 54th, it seemed their run was at an end when the match ticked into injury time.

The extra minutes had reached four when Antonio Ceccarini squeezed in the equaliser. But there was gloomy news for the players as they trooped off the pitch. They owed injury time to a collision between Vannini and Adriano Fedele in the 82nd minute, and Vannini had been taken to hospital with a broken right leg.

The top of the table scramble has been comparatively processional. Milan — with Gianni Rivera a sort of non-playing captain — were quick to hit the front and with the eclipse of Juventus neither Torino nor Inter appears to possess the necessary steel to threaten the leaders.

Bottom

It's at the foot of *Serie A* that there's been more excitement, particularly involving Verona and Bologna.

Verona are bottom with eight points, while Bologna and Atalanta each have 10. Then there's an ominous gap between the relegation zone trio and Avellino and Roma, both on 14.

Verona's disappointment exploded after a 1-0 defeat away to Napoli (The game was played at Pescara because Napoli's ground has been closed for one game after the firework incident against Lazio reported last month). The only goal came from a penalty controversially awarded by referee Gino Menicucci after Napoli striker Antonio Capone was sandwiched. Beppe Savoldi converted the spot kick at the second attempt. Verona had reached breaking point, and spearhead Lionello Massimelli was sent off two minutes from time.

Saverio Garonzi, Verona's president, could contain his rage no longer. He confronted Menicucci in the players' tunnel, accused him of corruption, of threatening Verona's players with expulsions and penalties, and finally dismissed him as a clown.

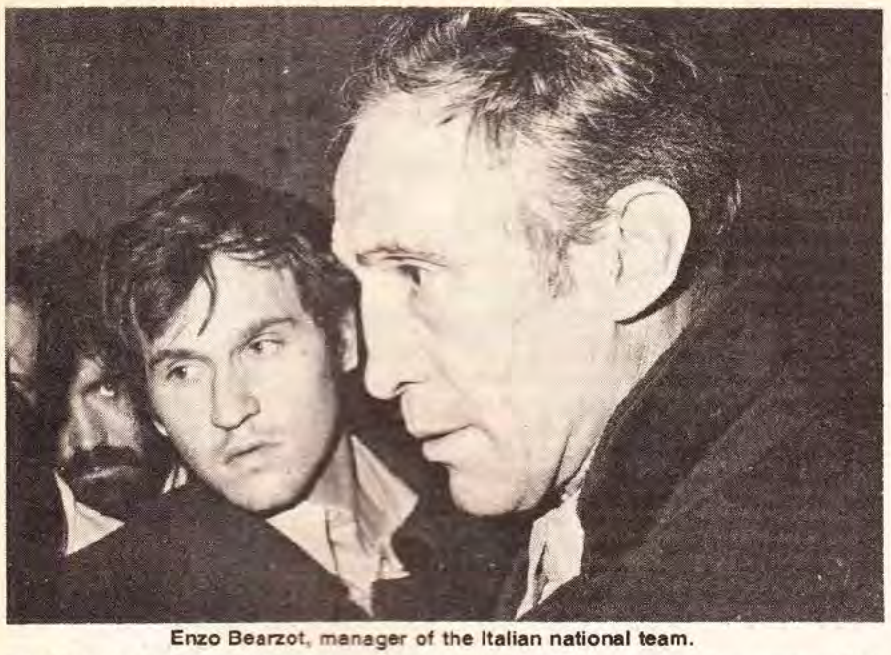
Wounds

"Menicucci should never be allowed to referee again," said Garonzi the next day, when it was clear time had not healed the wounds.

And indeed now he turned his wrath on anothe referee, Gianfranco Menegali, making similar accusations.

Garonzi, a brief victim in 1975 of the wave of kidnappings which swept Italy, has been in trouble over his opinions of referees before. In 1967-68 he was suspended for three months for insulting referee Pieroni after a game against Genoa; in 1971-72 it was the turn of referee Riccardo Lattanzi to face his anger — result a six-month ban. Then, too, came the allegations that he had tried to persuade Bologna's Sergio Clerici to ease up and give Verona a chance to escape relegation. That meant a three-year ban, though it was comparatively ineffective for Garonzi — a big garage owner in Milan — went on pouring money into Verona.

"I know I'll be banned again now," he said,



Enzo Bearzot, manager of the Italian national team.

"but someone had to speak out and now that we're 99 per cent certain to go back in the *Serie B* perhaps it's time for someone to buy me out and try their own hand at running the club."

And when an 18-month suspension was announced for his insults to Menicucci — the matter of his outbursts to the Press was adjourned — Garonzi merely laughed and admitted: "To be honest I thought they'd ban me for life. The fact they've banned me only for 18 months shows they realise there was some truth in what I said."

That was pushing his luck — something Marino Perani knows all about. Called to take over Bologna in midseason ("The job I've always wanted") Perani has continued his revolutionary changes. Apart from dropping stars such as World Cup defender Mauro Bellugi, he's also ordered his players onto special diets without coffee or anything sweet, and moved the squad to new training grounds.

"I'd rather go down for the first time in the club's history playing good skilful football than stay up with *catenaccio*," he said bravely. President Luciano Conti immediately stepped in with a warning: "You've been in the job three games without any points. You have two weeks — or else you get the sack too."

The result was a dull 0-0 tie away to Inter followed by a scoreless home draw with Ascoli. So much for Perani's words!

Gifts for Novellino

CARDS, toys, flowers and telegrams virtually flooded Milan forward Walter Novellino out of his home when his little daughter had to go into hospital after an accident in their apartment.

★ ★ ★

THE OLD institution of the *ritiro* is under fire, and in the country which made it so famous. Torino have abolished the tradition of taking their players away for a day or two before big games home and away. "The boys will be more relaxed in their own homes than a hotel," said coach Gigi Radice.

★ ★ ★

MAURIZIO MONTESI, the young midfielder whose abusive comments on football fans landed him in hot water at Avellino, has asked the league to take action against the club for the 10-day suspension imposed when the storm blew up.

★ ★ ★

THROWING stones or cushions is a bit common now. That's the obvious conclusion from an incident during Internazionale's 2-0 win over Avellino, when referee Luigi Agnolin was struck on the shoulder by a gold cigarette-lighter. The FIGC, deciding obviously to fight fire with fire, fined Inter £500

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I AM A FIFTEEN year old girl; I live in Argentina and would like to correspond with people who like sport, travel and postcards. I am particularly interested in people who live in the following countries: Holland, England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Austria, West Germany, Canada, Australia and Belgique. I collect pictures, photographs of Dutch players. All letters will be answered. I speak English and Spanish. Liliana I. Etcheverry, Los Platanos 722, 1607 Villa Adelina, Pcia.Bs.As Argentina.

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EURO HISTORY

Part one compiled by Keir Radnedge

WORLD SOCCER EXCLUSIVE FEATURE

ON SEPTEMBER 4, 1955, some 22 players stepped out into Lisbon's afternoon sunshine to launch a European football revolution.

The clubs were Sporting Lisbon and Partizan Belgrade, with the opening first round match in a new contest called the European Cup for Champion Clubs.

The fledgling UEFA had reluctantly taken charge of the organisation but it was the clubs who had done most of the work. Not that the original idea had been theirs. That came from Gabriel Hanot, a former French international, and editor of the Paris sports daily *L'Equipe*.

He had been stirred into action by exaggerated British Press claims after Wolverhampton Wanderers' friendly wins over Honved and Moscow Spartak in the Molineux mud.

This was all nearly 25 years ago — the birth of a movement which would create goals above and beyond national trophies and open communication between nations still frozen into their own political ice boxes.

Yet nowhere, to my knowledge, has that first competition been adequately chronicled. Plenty of articles or odd chapters in books have appeared over the years, but mostly skating over the details. I've cast around for a long time in a lot of countries but I doubt whether a statistical breakdown has ever been published.

Until now.

For the purpose of this article is to put on record those facts — facts which even UEFA do not possess.

More than 10 years ago one-time *World Soccer* contributor Roger Macdonald produced an excellent book about British club involvement in Europe. But even he had to acknowledge defeat when it came to digging out the 1955-56 details. Nor does the impressive *Europa-Pokal* series from The Munich sports publishers Copress delve that far back.

I don't claim total satisfaction with my own research. There are still one or two small gaps. Real Madrid and Milan in particular were most helpful but the attitude of various other clubs matched that of Hibernian who said that they didn't keep "that sort of record."

Well, Hibs, if you want a reminder of who played for you in what remains your most successful European campagin, here's your chance!

One of the most fascinating aspects of looking back is picking out the names later famous in management. In that very first game Sporting lined up future Portugal boss Yuca, while Partizan had future Yugoslav managers Stjepan Bobek and Marko Valok as well as Branko Zebec (now Hamburg) and in reserve Tomislav Kaloperovic (Partizan and Fenerbahce).

That first game was played in the shadow of one of those perpetual rows between Sporting and Benfica about a youth player. Left winger Quim had been discovered by Olivais, a Benfica offshoot, but somehow Sporting lured him away and in the midst of the argument he made a two-goal debut against the Slavs!

The result was a 3-3 draw, though Sporting could have won had they taken advantage of an early injury to Zebec, helped off after a collision in which Martins scored the opener. Zebec returned only as a passenger on the wing but Sporting right back Caldeira refused to go forward and use his freedom.

Also, the Lisbon forwards allowed their concentration to waver before rugged tackling from Bruno Belin and Bozidar Pajevic. In the return they would be slaughtered with Milos Milutinovic, then only 19, grabbing four goals (or three if you credit the other as an own goal by Pacheco).

Favourites

Among the early favourites were Red Banner (Voros Lobogo) of Hungary. They had just won the Mitropa Cup, turning Honved over in the semi-final and hitting UDA Prague (later Dukla) for six in the final.

They were irresistible against Anderlecht, with Peter Palotas grabbing the competition's first hat-trick. Ironically the Hungarians' excellent goalkeeper, Arpad Fazekas, later played a key role when Anderlecht eventually grew up in Europe in the early 1960s.

The Belgians went down 6-3 away and 4-1 in Brussels, though here three goals came in the last 10 minutes when Anderlecht were shattered from covering for injured Martin Lippens for almost an hour.

(A few days before the Brussels tie Nandor Hidegkuti and several Red Banner colleagues helped Hungary put five past Austria B in Vienna. One of the Hungarian players took the opportunity to seek asylum – the same Pal Csernai was recently named new boss of Bayern Munich).

Hibernian were welcomed into Europe by several thousand British servicemen when they won 4-0 away to Rot-Weiss Essen, though the West Germans were without four senior players including 1954 World Cup — winner Helmut Rahn.

For the return at Easter Road Hibs were weakened in turn, with the too-late arrival home from international duty of Gordon Smith, Tommy Younger and Laurie Reilly, but they went through on a 1-1 draw. This was one of five games referred in that first competition by England's Arthur Ellis. Four of the games were Hibs', the other one the final.

Hibs were the only British representatives. Chelsea had been warned off by the League and FA. Their place was taken by Gwardia Warsaw and it was trying to track down the Poles' first round defeat by Djurgarden of Sweden (Gwardia drew 0-0 away then lost 4-1 at home) that I ran into the most awkward problems.

For example, the Polish paper who gave most space to a report of the 4-1 home defeat were so upset they didn't name one Djurgarden player!

No such trouble with Rapid Vienna. If anything reports of their games provide too many scorers' names and several contradictions have been thrown up over the years.

At least there were no doubts in their 6-1 thrashing of PSV Eindhoven. Robert Körner not only grabbed three himself but laid on another for centre forward Mehsarosch.

Incidentally, Rapid's famous FIFA goalkeeper, Walter Zeman, played in only one of their four games in Europe, the second leg against PSV, on the way towards a quarter final slaughter at the hands of Milan.

But the Italians nearly didn't get through, being given a terrible time by little Saarbrücken. After being 3-1 up at home in 37 minutes, Milan lost 4-3 with goalkeeper Lorenzo Buffon having a nightmare. What makes the Saarlanders' triumph (their first and last in Europe) even more remarkable was the fact that the man who scored their second goal, wing half Philippi, spent most of the match hobbled on the wing!

Milan made no mistake in the return nor in their quarter final where Rapid were far too rusty from their winter break.

Hibernian also benefited from a pairing with a snow-bound team and played both games against Djurgarden in Scotland. The Swedes' "home" game was at Partick Thistle's Firhill Park in Glasgow and after the shock of a second-minute Edlund goal, the Scots cruised home 3-1 despite the inspiring play of Swedish left half Parling.

But it was the "Iron Stove" who was the culprit in the return, needlessly bringing down Willie Ormond (later Scotland's 1974 World Cup boss) so that Eddie Turnbull (now Hibs' manager) could hit the penalty spot winner.

For some reason Hibs had been led to believe they would play Real Madrid in the semi-finals but instead they were drawn against Reims. The champagne club would form the basis of France's excellent 1958 World Cup side and their progress to the semi-finals had been full of that promise.

Beating Aarhus of Denmark — a late replacement — with little Leon Glovacki

Michel Hidalgo, now manager of the French national team, played in the first European Cup competition.

scoring three of their four goals thanks to the promptings of the great Raymond Kopa, they then faced Red Banner.

In Paris Reims won 4-2 and led 3-1 at one stage in Budapest only for the Hungarians to stage a great comeback to draw 4-4. Even then Red Banner were livid, claiming the English referee Husband had denied them two clear penalties.

Reims had their testing moments against Hibs too. Injury and illness had upset their team. Armand Penverne was out for the season so Leblond dropped back to wing half and Michael Hidalgo (now France's manager) was drafted in at outside right. Jacquet was Reims' third goalkeeper of the tournament.

It was Leblond, with a goal 23 minutes from time, who broke the deadlock in France and Hibs thought they had done enough to cling on when Bliard sneaked a second in the last minute.

That goal made all the difference. In the second leg Reims could afford to be patient. Bob Jonquet was a tower of strength in the centre of defence and when Glovacki snatched his sixth goal of the contest Reims were able to go through 3-0 on aggregate.

The other semi-final paired Milan with Real Madrid.

Madrid had begun with a simple 2-0 win in Geneva, though Servette were sunk by goals only in the last 15 minutes. Appropriately the first of so many was scored by skipper Miguel Munoz and made by none other than the architect of their glorious five-year reign, Alfredo Di Stefano.

Both clubs lost their immediate games before the return. Servette went down 6-0 to Racing Club in Paris in a friendly on their roundabout journey to Spain, while Madrid lost 2-0 in the league to Real Sociedad de San Sebastian.

To face Servette, Alonso in goal, Munoz at right half and Joseito at inside right were recalled for Bagur, Manolin and ex-Crystal Palace man Jock Wilson, and Madrid won 5-0 for a quarter final against Partizan.

This would go down as one of the most famous in European club history played on Christmas Day, 1955, it was a first demonstration of football's potential power over politics — for Spain and Yugoslavia had no diplomatic relations of any sort.

Fears that Madrid might be pressed to withdraw proved ill-founded but the Yugoslavs had to be virtually smuggled into Spain so the tie could go ahead. Madrid coach Jose Villalonga had problems. A flu epidemic had swept the club and hit hard the half-back line of Munoz, Marquitos and Zarraga as well as left-winger Francisco Gento; right back Navarro, FIFA's 1953 choice against England, had broken his jaw; and injury-prone veteran Luis Molowny (now Madrid's boss) was hurt again.

Villalonga had no choice but to thrust in an untried right-winger named Castanos. In fact he won the game for them, scoring twice in the first 25 minutes and giving left back Rajko Colic such a tormenting night that Gento and Di Stefano were able to grab two more.

The return appeared a formality. But Madrid reckoned without the ice and snow of Belgrade and the powerful leadership of Milutinovic. There are a lot of legends about this game, many stretching facts. For one thing Milutinovic was not Partizan's centre forward, as is popularly stated, but inside right; for another Partizan did not achieve their 3-0 lead in the first half, but in the 86th minute; for yet another, Milutin Soskic was not in goal but among the reserves — first choice was Slavko Stojanovic. (Soskic would have to wait until the 1966 final to get his chance against Madrid).

The Slav fans bombarded Madrid's players with snowballs and Partizan's forwards took the cue. Herceg hit the bar in the eight minute and scored in the 13th, Mulutinovic hit a post in the 19th and in the 25th saw another shot beat Alonso but stick in the goal-line slush.

Madrid's one chance was a 39th-minute penalty, but Rial blasted the ball high over the bar.

Partizan coach Tomasevic moved Zebec up into midfield for the second half and within two minutes Milutinovic had scored from the spot after Munoz handled. But huff and puff as they might, the Slavs couldn't blow the Spanish castle down and though Milutinovic again made it 3-0 in the 86th, it was too late.

Madrid had escaped — to fall on Milan.

In Chamartin in the semi-final first leg Di Stefano was the hero. Not only did the Argentine organise Madrid's attacks to perfection, he scored the vital second half goal which put them two clear.

The Italian public didn't yet know what to make of the Champions' Cup, and a mere 25,000 turned out in San Siro (even that estimated may be a generous exaggeration) for the return. When Joseito put Madrid ahead in the 65th minute they seemed home and dry.

● *Continued overleaf*

● *Continued from previous page*

But two controversial penalties, smashed home by Dal Monte, gave Milan a 2-1 win as well as an outside chance. Again, like Partizan, they had left it too late. But just as Madrid would never forget Belgrade, so the Spanish champions would never forget that Austrian referee, Steiner . . .

After the drama and the goals which had gone before — only one 0-0 draw in 28 matches — it was surely asking too much for a final to top the lot. But that is what Madrid and Reims produced in the old Parc des Princes.

Reims were still without Penverne and Madrid provided a Champions' Cup debut for inside right Ramon Marsal. The combination of big night nerves and the attacking instincts stirred up in Reims by the makeshift selection of Leblond back at wing half, laid on the perfect overture.

Within 11 minutes the French were 2-0 up, through Leblond and Templin. All over? Not while the ubiquitous Di Stefano was around. He pulled one back, Rial equalised and though Hidalgo put Reims back in front Madrid levelled again thanks to a drive upfield from centre half Marquitos.

Madrid were coming in on the tide and even Kopa — soon to join them — knew Reims were going under. It took a sprint down the wing by Gento and a sharp cross to provide the winner for Rial and the first Champions' Cup had a winner.

Had a winner . . . and had proved a winner.

European football would never be the same again.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONS' CUP 1955-56

First round, first legs

Sporting Lisbon 3 (Martins 15, Quim 65 and 74)
Partizan Beograd 3 (Pajevic 44, Passos og 70, Bobek 81)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 35,000. **(Fr). Sept 4.**
Sporting: Gomes — Caldeira, Galaz — Barros, Passos, Juca — Hugo, Vasques, Martins, Travacos, Quim.
Partizan: Stojanovic — Lazarevic, Belin — Pajevic, Zebec, Borozan — Mihailovic, Milutinovic, Valok, Bobek, Herczeg.

Red Banner 6 (Szimczak 8, Palotas 25, 58, 79, Hidegkuti 26, Sandor 83)
Anderlecht 3 (Van der Wilt 6, H. Van den Bosch 38, J. Van den Bosch 78)
HT: 3-2. **Att:** 40,000. **Sept 7.**
Red Banner: Fazekas — Kovacs II, Borszei, Lantos — Kovacs I, Kovacs III — Sandor, Hidegkuti, Palotas, Karasz, Szimczak.
Anderlecht: Week — Matthys, Culot — Lippens, De Koster, Degelas — Jurion, H. Van den Bosch, Mermans, Van der Wilt, J. Van den Bosch.

Servette 0
Real Madrid 2 (Munoz 74, Rial 89)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Sautelle (Fr). **Sept 8.**
Servette: Ruesch — Gyger, Josephowsky — Casali, Dutoit, Kaelin — Nagy, Friedlander, Anker, Kunz, Coutaz.
Real Madrid: Alonso — Navarro, Lesmes — Munoz, Oliva, Zarraga — Molowny, Perez-Paya, Di Stefano, Rial, Gento.

Rot-Weiss Essen 0
Hibernian 4 (Turnbull 35, 44, Reilly 56, Ormond 82)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 25,000. **Sept 14.**
Essen: Herkenrath — Jaenisch, Sastrau — Köchling, Wewers, Roettger — Röhrig, Vordenbaumen, Arbotmeit, Sauer, Steffens.
Hibernian: Younger — Higgins, Paterson — Thomson, Plenderleith, Preston — Smith, Turnbull, Reilly, Combe, Ormond.

Djurgarden 0
Gwardia Warsaw 0
Att: 12,500. **Sept 20.**
***Djurgarden:** Arvidsson — Forsberg, Gustafsson — Holmstrom, Olsson, Parling — Andersson, H. Tvilling, Eriksson, Eklund, Sandberg.
***Gwardia:** Stefaniszyn — Norkowski, Ochmanski — Szkoda, Maruszkiewicz, Zientara — Krajewski, Brzozowski, Hachorka, Wisniewski, Baszkiewicz.

Aarhus 0
Reims 2 (Glovacki 7 and 71)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Schaeffer (WG). **Sept 21.**
Aarhus: From — Amidsen, Knudsen — E. Jensen, H. C. Nielsen, Olsen — Pilgaard, Kielberg, Bjeregaard, R. Jensen, Thogersen.
Reims: Dantheny — Zimmy, Giraudo — Penverne, Jonquet, Cicci — Hidalgo, Glovacki, Kopa, Lamartine, Bliard.

Rapid Vienna 6 (Körner II 12, 62, 82, Mehsarosch 55, Hanappi 56, Probst 60)
PSV Eindhoven 1 (Fransen 18)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Schmetzer (WG). **Sept 21.**
Rapid: Gartner — Riegler, Höltl — Bielek, Kaffka, Giesser — Halla, Hanappi, Mehsarosch, Körner II, Probst.
PSV: Stieger — Flierman, Rensen — D'Hooge, Wooters, Brusselers — Bünen, Dillen, Fransen, Wiersma, Van Elderen.

Milan 3 (Frignani 15, Schiaffino 33, Dal Monte 37)
Saarbrücken 4 (Krieger 5, Philippi 42, Schirra 68, Martin 69)
HT: 3-2. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Dienst (Swz). **Nov 1.**
Milan: Buffon — Maldini, Zagatti — Liedholm, Ganzer, Bergamaschi — Frignani, Dal Monte, Vicariotto, Schiaffino, Valli.
Saarbrücken: Fischbach — Puff, Keck — Berg, Momber, Philippi — Otto, Martin, Krieger, Siedl, Schirra.

First round, second legs

Partizan Beograd 5 (Milutinoviv 9, 28, 59, 73, Jovic 88)
Sporting Lisbon 2 (Walter 49, 78)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Danko (Hun). **Oct 12.**
Partizan: Stojanovic — Belin, Herczeg — Pajevic, Jovanovic, Borozan — Jovic, Milutinovic, Valok, Bobek, Zebec.
Sporting: Gomes — Pacheco, Galaz — Barros, Passos, Yuca — Vasques, Travacos, Walter, Joaquim Jose, Martins.
Partizan 8-5 on agg.

Anderlecht 1 (H. Van den Bosch 36)
Red Banner 4 (Hidegkuti 25, Lantos 80, Palotas 84, Kovacs I 86)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 25,000 (Stade E. Verse). **Oct 19.**
Anderlecht: Week — Matthys, Culot — Lippens, De Koster, Hanon — Jurion, H. Van den Bosch, Mermans, Degelas, J. Van den Bosch.
Red Banner: Fazekas — Kovacs II, Borszei, Lantos — Kovacs I, Kovacs III — Sandor, Hidegkuti, Palotas, Szolnok, Szimczak.
Red Banner 10-4 on agg.

Real Madrid 5 (Molowny 55, Di Stefano 30, 59, Joseito 36, Rial 47)
Servette 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 60,000. **Ref:** Pieri (It). **Oct 12.**
Madrid: Alonso — Navarro, Atienza — Munoz, Marquitos, Zarraga — Molowny, Joseito, Di Stefano, Rial, Gento.
Servette: Ruesch — Gyger, Josefowski — Casali, Dutoit, Rutacher — Grobety, Anker, Pasteur, Postega, Brunek.
Madrid 7-0 on agg.

Hibernian 1 (Buchanan 5)
Rot-Weiss Essen 1 (Arbotmeit 46)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Ellis (Eng). **Oct 12.**
Hibernian: Adams — Macfarlane, Paterson — Thomson, Plenderleith, Preston — Buchanan, Turnbull, Mulkerrin, Combe, Ormond.
Essen: Herkenrath — Grewer, Köchling — Vordenbaumen, Wewers, Jahnel — Arbotmeit, Sauer, Seemann, Islacker, Röhrig.
Hibernian 5-1 on agg.

Gwardia 1 (Baszkiewicz 13)
Djurgarden 4 (Eriksson 5, 16, 21, Sandberg 29)
HT: 1-4. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Harzic (Fr). **Oct 12.**
Gwardia: Stefaniszyn — Markowski, Ochmanski — Hodyra, Maruszkiewicz, Zientara — Krajewski, Brzozowski, Hachorek, Wisniewski, Baszkiewiz.
Djurgarden: Arvidsson — Forsberg, Gustafsson — Holmstrom, Olsson, Parling — Stig Tvilling, Hans Tvilling, Eriksson, Eklund, Sandberg.
Djurgarden 4-1 on agg.

Reims 2 (Glovacki 48, Bliard 71)
Aarhus 2 (E. Jensen 79, Bjeregaard 83)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,845. **Ref:** Bond (Eng). **Oct 26.**
Reims: Jacquet — Siatka, Giraudo — Penverne, Jonquet, Cicci — Templin, Glovacki, Kopa, Leblond, Bliard.
Aarhus: From — Gundlev, Knudsen — E. Jensen, Nielsen, Olsen — Pilgaard, Kjeldberg, Bjeregaard, A. Jensen, J. Jensen.
Reims 4-2 on agg.

PSV Eindhoven 1 (Fransen 8)
Rapid Vienna 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Nov 1.**
***PSV:** Stiegler — Flierman, Rensen — D'Hooge, Wooters, Brusselers — Bünen, Dillen, Fransen, Wiersma, Van Elderen.
***Rapid:** Zeman — Riegler, Höltl — Bielek, Kaffka, Golobic — Halla, Hanappi, Mehsarosch, Krner II, Probst.
Rapid 6-2 on agg.

Saarbrücken 1 (Binkert 32)
Milan 4 (Valli 7 and 76, Nordahl 74, Beraldo 86)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 12,000. **Ref:** Schipper (Hol). **Nov 23.**
Saarbrücken: Fischbach — Puff, Keck — Krieger, Momber, Philippi — Otto, Martin, Binkert, Siedl, Schirra.
Milan: Ciceri — Maldini, Beraldo — Liedholm, Ganzer, Bergamaschi — Dal Monte, Carminati, Nordahl, Schiaffino, Valli.
Milan 7-5 on agg.

Quarter finals, first leg

Djurgarden 1 (Edlund 2)
Hibernian 3 (Combe 19, Mulkerrin 50, Olsson og 85)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 22,000. **Ref:** Ellis (eng). **Nov 23 (Firhill Pk, Glasgow).**
Djurgarden: Arvidsson — Forsberg, Gustafsson — Holmstrom, Olsson, Parling — Andersson, Grybb, Eriksson, Edlund, Sandberg.
Hibernian: Younger — Macfarlane, Paterson — Thomson, Plenderleith, Preston — Smith, Combe, Mulkerrin, Turnbull, Ormond.

Reims 4 (Glovacki 14, Leblond 33, 56, Bliard 42)
Red Banner 2 (Szolnok 38, Lantos 78 pen)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 36,088. **Ref:** Dienst (Swz). **Dec 14.**
Reims: Sinibaldi — Zimmy, Giraudo — Penverne, Jonquet, Cicci — Templin, Glovacki, Kopa, Leblond, Bliard.
Red Banner: Fazekas — Szimcsak II, Borszei, Lantos — Kovacs, Zakarias — Sandor, Hidegkuti, Palotas, Molnar, Szimcsak I.

Real Madrid 4 (Castanos 13, 24, Gento 38, Di Stefano 70)
Partizan 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 100,000. **Ref:** Harzig (Fr). **Dec 25.**
Real Madrid: Alonso — Becerril, Lesmes — Munoz, Marquitos, Zarraga — Castanos, Olsen, Di Stefano, Rial, Gento.
Partizan: Stojanovic — Belin, Colic — Mihailovic, Zebec, Pajevic — Valok, Bobek, Milutinovic, Kaloperovic, Herceg.

Rapid Vienna 1 (Körner I 26 pen)
Milan 1 (Nordahl 20)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Vicek (Cz). **Jan 18.**
Rapid: Gartner — Halla, Höltl — Hanappi, Kaffka, Lenzinger — Körner I, Riegler, Dienst, Probst, Körner II.
Milan: Buffon — Maldini, Beraldo — Tognon, Pedroni, Bergamaschi — Mariani, Liedholm, Nordahl, Schiaffino, Dal Monte.

Quarter finals, second legs

Hibernian 1 (Turnbull 71 pen)
Djurgarden 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 31,000. **Ref:** Ellis (Eng). **Nov. 28.**
Hibernian: Younger — Macfarlane, Paterson — Thomson, Plenderleith, Preston — Smith, Combe, Mulkerrin, Turnbull, Ormond.
Djurgarden: Arvidsson — Forsberg, Gustafsson — Edlund, Olsson, Parling — Andersson, Tvilling, Eriksson, Eklund, Sandberg.
Hibernian 4-1 on agg.

Red Banner 4 (Lantos 13, 73 pen, Sandor 53, Giraudo og 83)
Reims 4 (Glovacki 7, Bliard 19, 44, Templin 51)
HT: 1-3. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Husband (Eng). **Dec 28.**
Red Banner: Veres — Kovacs II, Borszei, Lantos — Kovacs I, Kovacs III — Sandor, Hidegkuti, Palotas, Molnar, Scimcsak I.
Reims: Sinibaldi — Zimmy, Giraudo — Penverne, Jonquet, Cicci — Templin, Glovacki, Kopa, Leblond, Bliard.
Reims 8-6 on agg.

Partizan 3 (Herceg 13, Milutinovic 47 pen, 86)
Real Madrid 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 65,000. **Ref:** Guelin (Swz). **Jan 29.**
Partizan: Stojanovic — Belin, Lazarevic — Kaloperovic, Zebec, Pajevic — Mihailovic, Milutinovic, Valok, Bobek, Herceg.
Real Madrid: Alonso — Becerril, Lesmes — Munoz, Marquitos, Zarraga — Castanos, Olsen, Di Stefano, Rial Gento.
Madrid 4-3 on agg.

Milan 7 (Mariani 15, Nordahl 22, 49, Ricagni 26, 63, Schiaffino 75, Frignani 56)
Rapid Vienna 2 (Golobic 31, Körner I 57)
HT: 3-1. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Horn (Hol). **Feb 12.**
Milan: Buffon — Maldini, Zagatti — Liedholm, Pedroni, Bergamaschi — Mariani, Ricagni, Nordahl, Schiaffino, Frignani.
Rapid: Gartner — Höltl, Lenzinger — Hanappi, Kaffka, Golobic — Halla, Riegler, Dienst, Körner I, Probst.
Milan 8-3 on agg.

Semi-finals, first leg

Reims 2 (Leblond 67, Bliard 89)
Hibernian 0
Ht: 0-0. **Att:** 35,486. **Ref:** Asensi (Sp). **April 4 (Paris).**
Reims: Jacquet — Zimmy, Giraudo — Siatka, Jonquet, Cicci — Hidalgo, Glovacki, Kopa, Leblond, Bliard.
Hibernian: Younger — Macfarlane, Paterson — Buchanan, Grant, Thomson — Smith, Turnbull, Reilly, Combe, Ormond.

Real Madrid 4 (Rial 7, Joseito 26, Olsen 41, Di Stefano 63)
Milan 2 (Nordahl 10, Schiaffino 31)
HT: 3-2. **Att:** 116,000. **Ref:** Harzig (Fr). **April 19.**
Madrid: Alonso — Navarro, Lesmes — Munoz, Marquitos, Zarraga — Joseito, Olsen, Di Stefano, Rial, Gento.

Milan: Buffon — Maldini, Zagatti — Liedholm, Pedroni, Ganzer — Beraldo, Ricagni, Nordahl, Schiaffino, Dal Monte.

Semi-finals, second legs

Hibernian 0
Reims 1 (Glovacki 57)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 47,500. **Ref:** Ellis (Eng). **April 19.**
Hibernian: Younger — Macfarlane, Paterson — Buchanan, Grant, Combe — Smith, Turnbull, Reilly, Thomson, Ormond.
Reims: Jacquet — Zimmy, Giraudo — Leblond, Jonquet, Siatka — Hidalgo, Glovacki, Kopa, Bliard, Templin.
Reims 3-0 on agg.

Milan 2 (Dal Monte 69 pen and 86 pen)
Real Madrid 1 (Joseito 65)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref.** Steiner (Aus). **May 1.**
Milan: Buffon — Maldini, Zagatti — Liedholm, Pedroni, Bergmaschi — Mariani, Ricagni, Nordahl, Schiaffino, Dal Monte.
Madrid: Alonso — Atienza, Lesmes — Munoz, Marquitos, Zarraga — Joseito, Olsen, Di Stefano, Rial, Gento.
Madrid 5-4 on agg.

FINAL

Real Madrid 4 (Di Stefano 15, Rial 30, 79, Marquitos 67)
Reims 3 (Leblond 7, Templin 11, Hidalgo 62)
HT: 2-2. **Att:** 38,238. **Ref:** Ellis (Eng). **June 13 — Paris.**
Madrid: Alonso — Atienza, Lesmes — Munoz, Marquitos, Zarraga — Joseito, Marsal, Di Stefano, Rial, Gento.
Reims: Jacquet — Zimmy Giraudo — Leblond, Jonquet, Siatka — Hidalgo, Glovacki, Kopa, Bliard, Templin.

*FOOTNOTE: Teams marked * are line-ups which contained some error or quirk in original reports and which I have had to "interpret". UEFA does not hold detailed records of the early years, not even attendances and referees' names. From many sources I have obtained crowd estimates – and in some cases exact figures –but not all referees for the first round. Any extra information of this sort which readers can supply would be welcome.*

Continued next month

1979 EURO RESULTS

JANUARY being a quiet time of year internationally anyway, the weather conditions were hardly conducive to squeezing in any extra practice for the forthcoming European championship ties.

Therefore the games mentioned below have all taken place as part of tours — none with a lot of significance.

JANUARY 31

Los Angeles
Mexico 0
Russia 1 (An 55)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 7,270.
This was not a full Russian team — though their records will count it as such — but the Olympic side on a run-out during a North/Central American tour to start serious preparations for next year's Moscow Games. Mikhail An was the outstanding player and deservedly scored the only goal past Gregorio Cortes. Mexico's new manager Jose Moncebaez put out a full-strength side for these nations' only meeting apart from the opening 0-0 draw in the 1970 World Cup Finals.

In a preliminary match the Mexican Olympic XI lost 4-0 to the US, with two goals coming from George Nanchoff.

Tel Aviv
Israel 0
Austria 1 (Oberacher 54)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000.
Karl Stotz had taken his Austrian squad to the Wingate Institute, 15 miles from Tel-Aviv, to stop them going too rusty during the winter break. He took 23 players, without the exports, but included a new goalkeeper in Lindenberger of second division Linz ASK as well as SSW Innsbruck's Peter Koncilia. Koncilia, who some time ago walked out on the national team, returned to the fold at the special request of goalkeeper brother Friedl, to help recover from a troublesome thigh injury.

The game itself was unspectacular with the Austrians disjointed but deserving their win.

Military Intl: Jan 24 (Ostend): Belgium 1 (Voordeckers), France 1 (Pilorget).
Other games: Jan 3 (Tel-Aviv): Israel 1 (Avrahani 89), Borussia Mg 1 (Thychosen 80). Jan 11 (Toulouse): Tunisia 1, Anderlecht 2. Jan 14: Metz 0, Luxembourg 3.

***SEPP PIONTEK, ex-West German international and right back of Werder Bremen, and former manager of Haiti, has taken over the Denmark national team.

SOUTH AMERICAN JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIP
(Players up to 18) in Uruguay
(Montevideo and Paysandu)
January 12
(Group A)

URUGUAY (0) 5 (Luzardo 2, Vargas, Viera, Roo)
ECUADOR 0
Uruguay: Alvez, Molina (Bossio), Caceres, Alaguich, Martinez, Barrios, Luzardo, Roo, Vargas, Paz, R. Viera.
Ecuador: Game, Quinteros, Villacis, Tenorio (sent off 34m), Santillan, Vaca, Tobar, Carrera (Delgado), Zatizabal, Cuvi, Cruz.

(Group B)
PARAGUAY (1) 6 (Valnotti, Romero 2, Arévalo, Isasi, Guzman o.g.)
CHILE 0
Paraguay: Elizeche, Cabrera (Olmedo), Caballero, Suliam, Vera, Gimenez, Miño, Romero, Arévalo (Fernandez), Isasi, Valinotti.
Chile: R. Rojas, Guzman, O. Rojas, Pacheco, Vargas, Hurtado, Ormeño, Escanillas, Soto, Letelier, Donoso.
COLOMBIA (0) 2 (Valderrama 2)
BRAZIL (1) 1 (Jorginho)

January 13
(Group A)
ARGENTINA (4) 4 (Alves 2 pen., Maradona, R. Diaz)
PERU 0
Argentina: Garcia, Barbas, Simón, Rossi, H. Alves, Meza (Rinaldi), Spreandio, Maradona, Escudero (Heredia), R. Diaz, Barrera.
Peru: Bazán, J. Diaz, Belver, Aguilar, Costa, Chinchay (Rey), Drago, Vargas, Caballero, Duarte (C. Garcia), Hurtado.

January 14
(Group B)
COLOMBIA (0) 5 (Valderrama 3, Monsalve 2)
BOLIVIA (1) 1 (Paniagua)
Colombia: Castro, Garcia, Luna, Suarez, Aristizabal, Espinoza, Ricaurte, Monsalve, Angulo, Valderrama, Serrano (Rivera).
Bolivia: Reinaldo (Arispe), Gallardo, Montero, Tarabillo, Melgar (Cespedes), Garrido, Ramirez, Vazquez, Algaranaz, Panaiagua (sent off 65m), Rojas.

BRAZIL (1) 1 (Jorginho)
CHILE 0
Brazil: Marola, Luis Claudio, Marcio, Vagner, Loti, Deinha, Lenadro, Jorginho (Gersinho), Paulo Borges (sent off), Robertinho (sent off), Anchietta (Everton).
Chile: R. Rojas, Guzman, Ulloa (sent off), Pacheco, Villazon, Ormeno, O. Rojas, Hurtado, Alvarez (Menezes), Letelier (Escamilla sent off), Donoso.

January 17
(Group B)
PARAGUAY (2) 5 (Romero 2, Isasí, Vera pen., Valinotti)
COLOMBIA 0
Paraguay: Elizeche, Olmedo, Caballero, Surian, Vera, Gimenez, Miño, Romero, Isasi (Cabañas), Cardozo, Valinotti.
Colombia: Castro, Garcia, Suarez, Luna, Aristizábal, Espinoza, Monsalve (sent off), Montoya, Rivera, Valderrama, Angulo.

BRAZIL (1) 1 (Jorginho pen.)
BOLIVIA 0
Brazil: Marolla, Luiz Claudio, Marcio, Vagner, Loti, Gersinho (César), Deinha, Leandro, Jorginho, Everton, Anchietta (Paulo Cesar).
Bolivia: Arispe, Tarabilo, Gallardo, Montero, Garrido, Salinas, Melgar, Céspedes, Vazquez (Ramirez), Alganaz (Montano), Rojas.

January 18
(Group A)
ARGENTINA (2) 5 (Diaz 3, Escudero 2)
ECUADOR 0
Argentina: Garcia, Barbas, Simon, Rossi, Alves, Meza, Sperandio (Rinaldi), Maradona, Escudero, R. Diaz, Barrera (Candedo).
Ecuador: Game, Quinteros, Villacis, Tobar, Santilla, Carrera, Vaca, Delgado (Vargas), Cruz, Cubis (Zatizabal), Navas.

URUGUAY (3) 3 (Paz, Martinez, Luzardo)
PERU 0
Uruguay: Alvez, Molina (Bossio), Caceres, Alaguich, Martinez, Barrios, Luzardo, Roo, Vargas, Paz, Viera.
Peru: Bazan (Castro), Acosta, Belber, Requena, Garcia, Vargas, Drago, Chirinos, C. Garcia (Rey), Duarte, Hurtado.

January 19
(Group B)
CHILE (0) 2 (Hurtado, Soto)
COLOMBIA 0
Chile: Quiroz, Guzman, Pacheco, O. Rojas, Villazón, Oremeño, Ugarte, Hurtado, Letelier (Soto), Alvarez (Meneses), Donoso.
Colombia: Motta, Garcia, Luna, Suarez, Aristizabal, Espinos (Escobar), Serrano, Valderrama, Angulo, Rivera, Palacios.

PARAGUAY (1) 1 (Romero)
BOLIVIA 0
Paraguay: Elizeche, Olmedo, Caballero, Surian, Vera, Gimenez, Miño, Romero (Cabaña), Cardozo, Issasi (Delgado), Valinotti.
Bolivia: Arispe, Gallardo, Montero, Arce, Cespedes, Garrido, Melgar, Vazquez, Algañaraz (Salinas), Montaño, Rojas.

January 22
(Group A)
URUGUAY (1) 1 (Luzardo)
ARGENTINA 0
Uruguay: Alvez, Molina, Ceceres, Alaguich, Martinez, Barrios, Luzardo, Roo, Vargas (Massetti), Paz, Viera.
Argentina: Garcia, Barbas, Piaggio, Rossi, Alves, Rinaldi (Bachino), Sperandio, Barrera, Candedo, Torres, Heredia (Escudero).

PERU (2) 2 (Acuña, Costa)
ECUADOR 0
Peru: Castro, Diaz, Belber, Requena, Costa, Chinchay, Drago, Chirinos, Rey (Duarte), Caballero (Garcia), Acuña.
Ecuador: Game, Quinteros, Villacis, Tenorio, Santillan, Carreras, Zatizabal, Cruz (Angulo), Cuvis (Guerrero), Navas, Tobas.

(Group B)
CHILE (1) 5 (Donoso, Alvarez 2, Hurtado, Guzman)
BOLIVIA (0) 1 (Rojas)
Chile: Quiroz, Guzman, Pacheco, Rojas, Vallazon, Ormeño, Ugarte, Hurtado, Soto, Menezes (Alvarez), Donoso.
Bolivia: Arispe, Arce, Gallardo, Garrido, Montero, Melgar, Vazquez, Cespedes, Algañaz, Paniagua, Rojas.

PARAGUAY (1) 1 (Cabañas)
BRAZIL (1) 1 (Zerzinho pen.)

Final group standings

Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uruguay	3	3	0	0	9	0	6
Argentina	3	2	0	1	9	1	4
Peru	3	1	0	2	2	8	2
Ecuador	3	0	0	3	0	11	0

Group B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Paraguay	4	3	1	0	13	1	7
Brazil	4	2	1	1	4	3	5
Chile	4	2	0	2	7	8	4
Colombia	4	2	0	2	7	9	4
Bolivia	4	0	0	4	2	12	0

(Top two from each group qualify for the final round. Third placed Peru and Chile play off for fifth qualifying place for Pan American Games finals.)

League Tables

PARAGUAY
Championship of the Republic

Section A: **1. Libertado 19 pts; 2. Pettirrosi, San José and Tembetary 10; 5. Nacional de Asuncion 9; 6. Nacional de Salto del Guaira 2.** ***Section B:*** **1. Cerro Porteño 15; 2. Teniente Alcides Gonzalez 12; 3. Ocho de Diciembre 11; 4. Olimpia and Sol de America 8; 6. Mariscal Lopez 7.**

ECUADOR: First Division
(final round)

1. Tecnico Universitario 9 pts; 2. Nacional 7; 3. Emelec 5; 4. Darcelona 3.

PERU: National Championship
(final standings)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Alianza Lima	30	20	4	6	63	20	44
Universitario	30	21	1	8	62	28	43
Sporting Cristal	30	18	6	6	61	28	42
Juan Aurich	30	13	12	5	39	25	38
Sport Boys	30	12	10	8	44	37	34
Melgar	30	12	9	9	39	34	33
Leon de Huanuco	30	10	9	11	27	35	29
Atletico Chalaco	30	10	8	12	37	43	28
Col. Nac. de Iquit.	30	9	11	12	28	35	29
Coronel Bolognesi	30	9	10	11	30	40	28
Union Huaral	30	10	6	14	39	51	26
Atletico Torino	30	9	6	15	35	47	24
Deport. Municipal	30	8	6	16	25	32	22
Alfonso Ugarte	30	8	6	16	44	59	22
Deport. Junin	30	8	5	17	36	61	21
Defensor Lima	30	6	5	19	40	72	17

MEXICO: First Division

Group One	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monterrey	20	7	8	5	22	21	22
Guadalajara	20	8	6	6	27	28	22
America	20	8	4	8	31	28	20
Atlante	20	5	6	9	30	35	16
Veracruz	20	3	4	13	17	40	10

Group Two	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Unam	20	10	6	4	37	28	26
Aimpico	20	5	9	6	34	33	19
Atletico Protosino	20	7	5	8	25	32	19
Leon	20	5	6	9	28	37	16
Jalisco	20	4	6	10	24	34	14

Group Three	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Toluca	20	11	5	4	38	20	27
Cruz Azul	20	9	7	4	33	18	25
Puebla	20	7	7	6	25	25	21
Univ. de Guad.	20	8	4	8	33	30	20
U. de Curtidores	20	6	7	7	26	25	19

Group Four	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
U. de Nuevo Leon	20	11	7	2	33	21	29
U. A. de Guadalajara	20	6	9	5	30	25	21
Zacatepec	20	6	9	5	27	34	21
Deportivo Neza	20	6	6	8	16	21	18
Atletico Español	20	5	5	10	24	35	15

MALTA

Group A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hibernians	3	3	0	0	8	3	6
Valletta	2	1	0	1	3	2	2
Floriana	3	1	0	2	4	7	2
Sliema	2	0	0	2	2	4	0
Group B							
Hamrun	4	3	1	0	7	2	7
St. George's	3	1	2	0	4	3	6
Marsa	4	1	1	2	8	7	5
Msida	4	1	2	1	2	3	4
Qormi	4	0	3	1	6	7	3
Chaxaq	3	0	1	2	1	6	2

CYPRUS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Omonia	14	10	3	1	38	9	23
Apoel	14	10	2	2	21	4	22
Aiki	13	6	5	2	13	7	17
Anorthosis	14	7	3	4	20	14	17
Pesoporikos	14	3	9	2	14	8	15
Aris	14	6	3	5	15	14	15
Evagoras	14	3	7	4	14	16	13
Paralimni	13	5	3	5	18	11	13
Apop	14	4	5	5	16	24	13
Dighenis	14	3	6	5	12	27	12
Arravipu	14	2	8	4	9	16	12
Apollon	13	4	3	6	13	7	11
Epa	13	3	5	5	10	14	11
Salamis	14	4	3	7	24	28	11
Olympiakos	14	4	2	8	11	27	10
Aei	14	1	7	6	11	20	9

TUNISIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sahel	14	10	2	2	21	6	36
Esperance	14	7	5	2	20	14	33
Stade	14	8	3	3	17	12	33
Africain	14	6	5	3	11	6	31
CSHL	14	6	3	5	15	16	29
CS Sfax	14	4	6	4	15	14	28
OC Kerkenna	14	3	8	3	9	8	28
CA Bizerte	14	4	5	5	13	15	27
JS Kairouan	14	4	4	6	9	10	26
Sfax RS	14	3	6	5	11	12	26
OKEF	14	4	3	6	13	12	26
Marsa	14	4	3	7	15	17	25
COT	14	2	6	6	9	15	24
SSS	14	1	4	9	7	27	20

Three points for win; two for draw; one defeat.

BULGARIA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA	16	9	6	1	23	11	24
Levsky-Spartak	16	10	2	4	33	19	22
Lokomotiv Sofia	16	6	6	4	16	11	18
Marek	16	7	3	6	19	20	18
Beroe	16	8	2	6	26	30	18
Trakia	16	6	5	5	26	20	17
Chernomòrets	16	6	5	5	28	24	17
Pirin	16	6	4	6	20	23	17
Slavia	16	7	2	7	24	21	16
Botev	16	6	4	6	25	24	16
Akademik	16	4	6	6	14	23	14
Sliven	16	4	5	7	19	21	13
Lokomotiv Plovdiv	16	5	2	9	19	25	12
Chernomore	16	3	6	7	15	23	12
Spartak	16	4	3	9	14	16	11
Haskovo	16	5	1	10	19	29	11

BELGIUM

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Beveren-Waas	18	11	5	2	32	11	27
Anderlecht	18	11	1	6	42	23	23
Lokeren	18	8	6	4	24	19	22
Antwerp	18	6	10	2	22	15	22
RWD Molenbeek	18	8	5	5	24	20	21
Bruges	18	6	9	3	23	17	21
Waterschei	18	6	8	4	19	14	20
Stand	18	6	7	5	22	17	19
Beringen	18	6	7	5	22	20	19
Lierse	18	7	3	8	22	23	17
SC Charleroi	18	7	3	8	21	25	17
Beerschot	18	6	5	7	23	23	17
Winterslag	18	4	8	6	22	24	16
Waregem	18	3	9	6	14	23	15
La Louvière	18	4	5	9	24	40	13
Liege	18	4	4	10	20	31	12
Berchem	18	2	8	8	11	25	12
Kortrijk	18	2	7	9	10	27	11

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Strasbourg	25	13	10	2	44	21	36
Nantes	26	15	5	6	57	25	35
Monaco	26	15	5	6	56	30	35
St-Etienne	26	14	6	6	54	28	34
Bordeaux	25	10	11	4	36	23	31
Sochaux	24	10	8	6	43	29	28
Lyon	25	11	6	8	41	37	28
Lille	26	8	11	7	49	48	27
Metz	25	10	5	10	36	40	25
Nîmes	26	9	7	10	39	36	25
Bastia	26	9	7	10	38	44	25
Laval	26	7	11	8	42	49	25
Marseille	26	6	10	10	32	40	22
Nancy	24	7	7	10	45	40	21
Angers	25	7	7	11	26	47	21
Paris-St-Germain	26	7	7	12	37	48	21
Nice	26	7	7	12	41	56	21
Paris	26	6	7	13	30	54	19
Valenciennes	25	6	5	14	23	42	17
Reims	26	2	10	14	16	48	14

WEST GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
VfB Stuttgart	20	11	5	4	35	20	27
Hamburger SV	18	11	4	3	37	14	26
Kaiserslautern	18	10	6	2	36	23	26
Eintracht Frnkfrt	20	11	3	6	32	26	25
Bayern	19	8	4	7	36	28	20
Fort. Düsseldorf	18	7	5	6	37	28	19
Hertha Berlin	19	6	7	6	26	24	19
Schalke 04	19	6	6	7	36	32	18
Arm. Bielefeld	18	6	5	7	21	26	17
Bor. Dortmund	18	6	5	7	33	41	17
VfL Bochum	19	4	9	6	31	32	17
Bor. M'gladbach	17	6	4	7	24	19	16
Cologne	17	5	6	6	22	21	16
Werder Bremen	17	5	5	7	24	30	15
Eintr. Braunsch'g	17	5	5	7	24	33	15
MSV Duisburg	17	5	3	9	22	37	13
Darmstadt 98	18	3	5	10	23	39	11
Nürnberg	19	5	1	13	16	42	11

ENGLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	22	16	3	3	49	10	35
West Bromwich	23	14	6	3	48	22	34
Everton	24	12	10	2	33	18	34
Arsenal	24	13	7	4	43	21	33
Leeds	26	11	9	6	48	32	31
Nottingham For	22	9	11	2	25	15	29
Bristol City	26	10	8	8	33	27	28
Coventry	23	9	7	7	29	36	25
Tottenham	25	8	9	8	26	41	25
Aston Villa	22	7	10	5	27	20	24
Manchester Utd	23	9	6	8	32	41	24
Manchester City	24	6	9	9	33	30	21
Norwich	22	4	13	5	32	32	21
Ipswich	24	9	3	12	33	34	21
Derby	23	8	5	10	28	41	21
Southampton	23	6	8	9	26	32	20
Bolton	23	6	6	11	29	41	18
Middlesbrough	23	6	5	12	32	35	17
Queens PR	23	4	9	10	20	32	17
Wolverhampton	24	7	2	15	21	43	16
Chelsea	24	4	6	14	27	51	14
Birmingham	23	2	4	17	21	41	8

NORTHERN IRELAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Linfield	11	6	4	1	23	10	16
Portadown	11	7	0	4	23	16	14
Coleraine	13	5	4	4	19	16	14
Ards	10	5	3	2	25	18	13
Larne	12	5	2	5	23	20	12
Glentoran	10	5	2	3	20	21	12
Glenavon	12	4	4	4	17	18	12
Cliftonville	9	5	1	3	18	9	11
Bangor	11	3	4	4	15	19	10
Crusaders	10	2	2	6	12	20	6
Distillery	12	2	2	8	11	23	6
Ballymena	11	2	2	7	13	29	6

● Continued from previous page

EIRE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dundalk	22	14	6	2	44	18	34
Bohemians	20	13	5	2	37	16	31
Waterford	20	11	6	3	33	20	28
Drogheda	21	11	5	5	44	30	27
Athlone	21	11	5	5	37	27	27
Limerick	21	9	6	6	24	18	25
Home Farm	20	9	5	2	34	22	23
Shamrock RVS	21	10	3	8	29	19	23
Finn Harps	18	8	3	7	30	31	19
Shelbourne	20	6	6	8	32	33	18
Cork Albert	19	5	5	9	22	33	15
Sligo	19	6	2	11	23	28	14
Thurles	20	4	4	12	22	38	14
St Patrick	20	2	4	12	19	49	8
Cork Celtic	19	3	4	12	10	32	7
Galway	19	1	5	13	26	52	7

ITALY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Milan	16	11	3	2	28	9	25
Perugia	16	7	9	0	18	7	23
Inter	16	6	9	1	21	11	21
Turin	16	7	7	2	22	12	21
Juventus	16	6	7	3	18	12	19
Naples	16	4	10	3	12	10	18
Florence	16	5	6	5	14	13	16
Lazio	16	4	7	5	17	24	15
Vicenza	16	4	7	5	17	23	15
Catanzaro	16	3	9	4	9	14	15
Ascoli	16	4	6	6	16	18	14
Rome	16	5	4	7	10	15	14
Avellino	16	3	7	6	11	14	13
Atlanta	16	1	8	7	8	17	10
Bologne	16	1	7	8	11	19	9
Vérone	16	1	7	8	10	24	8

ALGIERS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
JET	17	10	3	4	22	10	40
MP Oran	17	9	4	4	17	8	39
ASC Oran	17	7	5	5	14	9	36
El Asirnam	17	8	3	6	21	16	36
MP Alger	16	7	5	4	21	15	35
RS Kouba	17	7	4	6	20	14	35
USMH	17	6	6	5	8	16	35
USK Alger	17	5	5	7	21	26	32
MAHD	14	5	6	3	17	12	30
DNC Alger	16	6	2	8	16	22	30
EP Sétif	16	3	8	5	17	25	30
CM Constantine	17	4	5	8	18	24	30
CM Belcourt	17	3	5	9	17	24	28
CN Batna	17	3	5	9	8	16	28

Three points for win; two for draw; one defeat.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AEK	17	12	4	1	37	14	28
Aris	17	12	3	2	31	9	27
Olympiakos	17	13	1	3	30	16	27
Panathinaikos	17	7	8	2	28	20	21
PAOK	16	8	4	4	37	14	20
Ethnikos	16	9	2	5	21	12	20
Appolon	17	6	7	4	22	16	19
Yannina	17	5	6	6	18	22	16
OFI Crète	17	6	4	7	14	18	16
Herakils	17	5	6	6	20	25	16
Kastoria	17	5	5	7	15	22	15
Larissa	17	6	2	9	20	33	14
Rhodes	17	6	1	10	21	25	13
Patras	17	4	4	9	9	22	12
Kavalla	17	5	1	11	17	27	11
Aegaleo	17	5	1	11	16	30	11
Panionios	17	3	4	10	12	23	10
Senes	17	2	4	12	8	28	8

MOROCCO

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
WAC	16	10	4	2	19	7	40
Fès	17	8	5	4	15	10	38
FAR	16	7	6	3	21	9	36
Meknes	17	7	5	5	14	11	36
Beni Mellal	17	5	9	3	18	16	36
Oujda	15	8	4	3	17	9	35
Kenitra	17	5	8	4	17	15	35
El Jaddida	17	6	5	6	11	12	34
Marrakech	17	7	3	7	13	15	34
Mohammedia	17	5	6	6	16	14	33
PUS	17	5	6	6	7	10	33
Raja	17	5	6	6	18	19	32
Etoile	17	3	8	6	12	19	31
Sidi	17	4	5	8	15	17	30
Sale	17	2	7	8	11	18	28
Settat	17	1	5	11	10	33	24

Three points for win; two for draw; one defeat.

SPAIN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	18	8	9	1	31	20	25
Gijon	18	10	4	4	27	17	24
Las Palmas	18	8	6	4	27	20	22
At. Madrid	18	7	7	4	34	26	21
Barcelone	18	7	6	5	43	20	20
Real Sociedad	18	9	2	7	28	22	20
Séville	18	6	7	5	30	26	19
At. Bilbao	18	7	4	7	29	22	18
Valence	18	7	4	7	20	21	18
Saragosse	18	8	2	8	31	31	18
Espanol	18	8	2	8	19	22	18
Salamanque	18	6	5	7	17	22	17
Burgos	18	4	8	6	22	30	16
Hercules	18	8	0	10	17	19	16
Santander	18	6	3	0	23	31	16
Rayo V.	18	5	5	8	16	29	15
Huelva	18	4	3	11	15	31	11
Celta	18	3	5	10	14	35	11

David Price (left) and Frank Stapleton (9) of Arsenal attack the Ipswich Town goal defended by custodian Paul Cooper and Les Tibbott.

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EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

Group 1

England, Bulgaria, Denmark, Northern Ireland, Ireland Rep.

24. 5.78 Denmark 3 Ireland Rep. 3
20. 9.78 Ireland Rep. 0 N. Ireland 0
20. 9.78 Denmark 3 England 4
11.10.78 Denmark 2 Bulgaria 2
25.10.78 Ireland Rep. 1 England 1
25.10.78 Northern Ireland 2 Denmark 1
29.11.78 Bulgaria 0 N. Ireland 2

7. 2.79 England 4 N. Ireland 0
2. 5.79 Ireland Rep. v. Denmark
2. 5.79 Northern Ireland v. Bulgaria
23. 5.79 Bulgaria v. Ireland Rep.
6. 6.79 Bulgaria v. England
6. 6.79 Denmark v. N. Ireland
12. 9.79 England v. Denmark
17.10.79 Ireland Rep. v. Bulgaria
17.10.79 Northern Ireland v. England
31.10.79 Bulgaria v. Denmark
21.11.79 England v. Bulgaria
21.11.79 N. Ireland v. Ireland Rep.
6. 2.80 England v. Ireland Rep.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
England	3	2	1	0	9	4	5
N. Ireland	4	2	1	1	4	5	5
Rep. Ireland	3	0	3	0	4	4	3
Denmark	4	0	2	2	9	11	2
Bulgaria	2	0	1	1	2	4	1

Group 2

Austria, Belgium, Scotland, Norway, Portugal

30. 8.78 Norway 1 Austria 2
20. 9.78 Belgium 1 Norway 1
20. 9.78 Austria 3 Scotland 2
11.10.78 Portugal 1 Belgium 1
25.10.78 Scotland 3 Norway 2
15.11.78 Austria 1 Portugal 2
29.11.78 Portugal 1 Scotland 0

7. 2.79 Scotland v. Belgium
28. 3.79 Belgium v. Austria
2. 5.79 Austria v. Belgium
10/15.5.79 Norway v. Portugal
7. 6.79 Norway v. Scotland
29. 8.79 Austria v. Norway
12. 9.79 Norway v. Belgium
17.10.79 Belgium v. Portugal
17.10.79 Scotland v. Austria
1.11.79 Portugal v. Norway
21.11.79 Belgium v. Scotland
21.11.79 Portugal v. Austria
6. 2.80 Scotland v. Portugal

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Portugal	3	2	1	0	4	2	5
Austria	3	2	0	1	6	4	4
Scotland	3	1	0	2	5	6	2
Belgium	2	0	2	0	2	2	2
Norway	3	0	1	2	3	6	0

Group 3

Cyprus, Spain, Rumania, Yugoslavia

4.10.78 Yugolsavia 1 Spain 2
25.10.78 Rumania 3 Yugoslavia 2
15.11.78 Spain 1 Rumania 0
13.12.78 Spain 3 Cyprus 0

1. 4.79 Cyprus v. Yugoslavia
4. 4.79 Rumania v. Spain
13. 5.79 Cyprus v. Rumania
10.10.79 Spain v. Yugoslavia
31.10.79 Yugoslavia v. Rumania
14.11.79 Yugoslavia v. Cyprus
18.11.79 Rumania v. Cyprus
9.12.79 Cyprus v. Spain

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	3	0	0	8	1	6
Rumania	2	1	0	1	3	3	2
Yugoslavia	2	0	0	2	3	5	0
Cyprus	1	0	0	1	0	5	0

Group 4

German DR, Iceland, Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland

6. 9.78 Iceland 0 Poland 2
20. 9.78 Netherlands 3 Iceland 0
4.10.78 German DR 3 Iceland 1
11.10.78 Switzerland 1 Netherlands 3
15.11.78 Netherlands 3 German DR 0
15.11.78 Poland 2 Switzerland 0

28. 3.79 Netherlands v. Switzerland
18. 4.79 German DR v. Poland
2. 5.79 Poland v. Netherlands
5. 5.79 Switzerland v. German DR
22. 5.79 Switzerland v. Iceland
9. 6.79 Iceland v. Switzerland
5. 9.79 Iceland v. Netherlands
12. 9.79 Iceland v. German DR
12. 9.79 Switzerland v. Poland
26. 9.79 Poland v. German DR
10.10.79 Poland v. Iceland
13.10.79 German DR v. Switzerland
17.10.79 Netherlands v. Poland
21.11.79 German DR v. Netherlands

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	3	3	0	0	9	1	6
Poland	2	2	0	0	4	0	4
E. Germany	2	1	0	1	3	4	2
Iceland	3	0	0	3	1	8	0
Switzerland	1	0	0	1	0	2	0

Group 5

France, Luxemburg, Sweden, Czechoslovakia

2. 9.78 France 2 Sweden 2
4.10.78 Sweden 1 Czechoslovakia 3
7.10.78 Luxemburg 1 France 3
18. 2.79 France v. Luxemburg
4. 4.79 Czechoslovakia v. France
1. 5.79 Luxemburg v. Czechoslovakia
6/13.5.79 Sweden v. Luxemburg
5. 9.79 Sweden v. France
10.10.79 Czechoslovakia v. Sweden
23.10.79 Luxemburg v. Sweden
17.11.79 France v. Czechoslovakia
24.11.79 Czechoslovakia v. Luxemburg

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
France	2	1	1	0	5	3	3
Czechoslovakia	1	1	0	0	3	1	2
Luxembourg	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

Group 6

Finland, Greece, Hungary, USSR

24. 5.78 Finland 3 Greece 0
20. 9.78 Finland 2 Hungary 1
20. 9.78 USSR 2 Greece 0
11.10.78 Hungary 2 USSR 0
11.10.78 Greece 8 Finland 1
28.10.78 Greece 4 Hungary 1

2. 5.79 Hungary v. Greece
19. 5.79 USSR v. Hungary
4. 7.79 Finland v. USSR
12. 9.79 Greece v. USSR
17.10.79 Hungary v. Finland
31.10.79 USSR v. Finland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Greece	4	2	0	2	12	7	4
Finland	3	2	0	1	6	9	4
USSR	2	1	0	1	2	2	2
Hungary	3	1	0	2	4	6	2

Group 7

Germany FR, Malta, Wales, Turkey

25.10.78 Wales 7 Malta 0
29.11.78 Wales 1 Turkey 0

25. 2.79 Malta v. Germany FR
1. 4.79 Turkey v. Germany FR
2. 5.79 Wales v. Germany FR
2. 6.79 Malta v. Wales
17.10.79 Germany FR v Wales
21.11.79 Turkey v. Wales
22.12.79 Germany FR v. Turkey
27. 2.80 Germany FR v. Malta

Dates of Malta and Turkey still provisional

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wales	2	2	0	0	8	0	4
W. Germany	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Turkey	1	0	0	1	0	1	0
Malta	1	0	0	1	0	7	0

FIXTURES

Category "A"

28. 2.79 Bulgaria v. German DR
14. 3.79 Czechoslovakia v. Spain
28. 3.79 Hungary v. German DR
19. 5.79 Wales v. Scotland
23. 5.79 Ireland Rep. v. Germany FR
26. 5.79 Iceland v. Germany FR
1. 6.79 German DR v. Rumania
13. 6.79 Austria v. England
5. 9.79 USSR v. German DR
12. 9.79 Germany FR v. Argentina
21.11.79 USSR v. Germany FR
2. 4.80 Germany FR v. Austria

Category "B"

4. 9.79 German DR v. USSR
6. 9.79 German DR v. USSR

Category "under 23"

20. 2.79 Belgium v. Germany FR

Category "under 21"

27. 2.79 German DR v. Bulgaria
14. 3.79 Rumania v. German DR
28. 3.79 Yugoslavia v. German DR
2. 5.79 German DR v. Denmark
4. 9.79 USSR v. German DR
12.10.79 Hungary v. German DR

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